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*For my Dad, N166984, who served as a stretcher bearer with the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance in New Guinea and Bougainville.*

## INTRODUCTION

Several years ago a Mount Gambier High School Roll of Honor was unearthed during a building upgrade. For some time it was stored and during this time suffered considerable damage. It was eventually repaired with a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and was subsequently mounted on the wall of the school Resource Centre. The work that follows began as an attempt to draw the attention of students to its existence and provide a resource that could be used by students and teachers at the school. Thanks must go to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for a subsequent grant that made this publication possible and to Mr Tony Pasin (Federal Minister for Barker) for supporting my application.

Works such as this are enhanced by the use of photographs, so most of the funds provided through the grant were used to purchase copies and the rights to use them. Thanks must also go to the Mount Gambier RSL, the Mount Gambier Public Library, the State Library of South Australia, State Records of South Australia, and the Australian War Memorial for permission to copy and publish photographs from their collections and for assistance given during the research.

Mount Gambier RSL are custodians of the Pictorial Roll of Honor created at the instigation of the proprietors of Star Pictures prior to the end of the war. This collection provides a lasting visual record of many individuals who either enlisted from Mount Gambier or who had loved ones living in the local area. I am extremely grateful to the local RSL for granting permission for me to have so many of the photographs in this collection copied. These photographs are behind glass and so special thanks must go to Helena Walsh who copied them, as well as photographing the Mount Gambier High School Roll of Honor and a number of headstones from the Lake Terrace Cemetery, managing to juggle these tasks with moving house to Victoria.

Photographs in the Les Hill Collection reminded me that these men and women had a life outside the school and the military. There were family photographs of the Green family of Mount Gambier in 1911, the Hunt family of Kalangadoo in 1911, the Shaughnessy family and the Bishop family in 1914. Members of the Methodist Young Men's class in 1912 posed for a formal group photograph and Methodist young people at Valley Lake in 1914 included Alan Palmer and Jack Shepherd. These were reminders of the importance religion played in community life. A young Harry Cornish appeared in a number of band photographs and as a lead actor in a pre-war drama. A Commercial Bank staff photograph included Alan Plate and Don McGillivray. Another photograph showed Perc Truman in his Post Office uniform. The Boys' Institute provided many opportunities for physical activities, so it is not uncommon to find photographs that included high school boys from this era. Others appeared in a range of sporting teams, including Reg Carr as a member of the fancy dress hockey team made up of boys dressed as girls who played against a local girls' team. Collectively these photographs provide some insight into the extensive network of involvement by the group in local working, sporting, religious and cultural life. A few of these photographs have been used on the back cover of this booklet.

As a teacher of history I am acutely aware of the importance of including local content in history courses where possible. Without it, students tend to view history as something that happens to other people who live elsewhere and to whom they have little or no connection. In part, therefore, this booklet grew out of a belief that I needed to contribute to a sense of awareness of the past of our local community.

I like to discover people's stories and this booklet gives me the opportunity to share what I have found with others. Consequently this work is narrative rather than analysis. The choice of topic might be seen by some as a glorification of war or an attempt to perpetuate a particular view of the past geared to manufacturing national pride, though any serious student of the history of wartime experience is unlikely to draw such conclusions.

The story of the group of 68 individuals that this study started with is really quite remarkable. It highlights the range of experiences of the general population who enlisted. Viney rose to become a high ranking staff officer. The two females served as nurses in India. Fifteen individuals saw little or no combat, having enlisted late in the war or having become ill and consequently returned home to Australia. One of those who arrived too late chose to enlist in a unit that subsequently served in the Russian Civil War. Another, W.R. Poole, was taken from active service and used in the manufacture of gas shells in Britain. Eleven were killed in the line of duty, most of these on the Western Front. Five (McAdam, Pannell, Roach, E.J. Shepherd and Webster) were awarded Military Medals, and Leslie Sneyd, a Distinguished Conduct Medal. Several rose through the ranks to become commissioned officers.

The enlistment of these men roughly follows the pattern for the AIF as a whole: 4 enlisted in 1914, 26 in 1915, 21 in 1916, 10 in 1917 and 5 in 1918. The war zones in which they served also follow the general pattern; one served in New Guinea, five on Gallipoli, six in Palestine, and forty-four on the Western Front.<sup>1</sup> However, this group cannot in any way be considered as a representative sample of those who enlisted. The fact that they had enjoyed some secondary education at a time when many only had access to primary education and some in remote areas not even that, precludes this. As a result of their education, a number were attached to specialist branches of the AIF: the artillery, the engineers, the field ambulance, and the Australian Flying Corps. Others were trained as signallers, or gunners in mortar or machine gun units. A number served in the Light Horse, again not surprisingly given the rural nature of their origins.

I have omitted reference to individual soldiers being punished for being absent without leave. Of the thousands of AIF files I have read over the past decade, I could probably count on one hand the number who do not have some reference to falling foul of military authorities for this reason at some stage. It was generally treated as a minor offence unless there was a pattern of this behaviour. Similarly I have omitted any mention of members of the group contracting venereal diseases. This booklet's readership is likely to be mainly local and it would in poor taste to draw attention to the indiscretions of the few who did. Neither should it be surprising that some developed a fatalistic attitude toward such a risk, given the fact that

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<sup>1</sup> Some individuals served in more than one zone, e.g. Viney served on Gallipoli before moving to the Western Front.

the individuals concerned must have considered each period of leave as a time not to be wasted. It might be their last. For some, it was.

It is my belief that the individual listed on the memorial as 'W.J. Williams' is a mistake. While the Mount Gambier High School Register does list a 'William John Williams' as one of its early enrolments, I was unable to locate him in service records despite an extensive search, and I am fairly confident he did not do so. On the other hand, 'Melville John Williams' (enrolment 104), born 29 August 1893, previous schooling in Narracoorte, was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 20 April 1909 by T. Henry Williams, a grazier, of Sturt Street, Mount Gambier, left school on 22 December 1909, and enlisted in the AIF in 1917. He has therefore been included in the discussion of 'soldiers who returned'.

The Head Teacher of Mount Gambier Public School was responsible for the running of the new Mount Gambier High School as well as his own, a situation that continued to exist till after the war, so it seemed rather pointless to try to separate the two when considering their operations during the war. The discussion that follows will therefore make reference to both schools and even, occasionally, to other schools in the region.

Public high schools in South Australia were a recent innovation and Mount Gambier was one of only a few regional centres to have one. What began as the Continuation Class of Mount Gambier State School became first the Mount Gambier District High School and eventually Mount Gambier High School. It remained part of Mount Gambier State School until the end of 1918.

Some readers will notice what appear to be spelling errors. The spelling of words such as 'honor' (when used for 'honor roll'), 'Border Town', 'Sutton Town' and 'Narracoorte' used in the book are intentional. I have used the spellings I found in the old issues of the *Border Watch* and have chosen to continue the use of such in this publication unless I am quoting from a source that uses a different spelling.

Places of birth for individual soldiers should not be taken too literally. It is likely, for example, that at least some of those who answered that they had been born in Mount Gambier were simply indicating the nearest town.

Mount Gambier was a very different place at the time of this war. Census records indicate that the population of the town was just over four thousand by the end of the war. The name of some locations in or near Mount Gambier (such as Frewville, Torrensedale, Williamstown and Philipstown) are no longer part of current usage, simply being part of Mount Gambier.

## READINESS FOR WAR: CREATING SCHOOL CADETS

Defence concerns had been one of the major factors motivating the Australian colonies to federate in 1901 and during the first decade of the twentieth century a number of overseas events gave Australians reason to believe that the new nation needed to bolster its military. British forces had been withdrawn from Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century, leaving many Australians feeling vulnerable. Under the terms of Federation, Australia was not granted the right to determine its own foreign policy, nor was it in a position to adopt an independent position. Federation saw the new nation equipped only with small volunteer forces with which to defend its large coastline, so Australia would be, for some time yet, reliant on the mother country for its defence.

Still committed to imperial defence, the colonies had sent troops to support Britain during the South African War (1899-1902) and the Boxer Rebellion in China (1900). Britain's alliance with Japan in 1902 did little to reassure Australians. Japan objected to Australia's Immigration Restriction Act which was aimed at keeping Australia white and Japan's victory in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-5) only served to fuel Australian anxiety. The Anglo-German naval race that commenced in 1906 and news of Germany's aggressive diplomacy in Morocco seemed to suggest that a major European war was inevitable. Concern over these developments resulted in the 1909 Defence Act, and, in time, the introduction of a system of compulsory military training for young men between the ages of 12 and 26, referred to as the Universal Service Scheme, which operated between 1911 and 1929.

A system of compulsory public elementary schooling existed in all states, having been adopted by the colonies during the second half of the nineteenth century. Victoria was first with its Education Act in 1872, followed by South Australia and Queensland in 1875, New South Wales in 1880, Tasmania in 1885 and Western Australia in 1893. Military authorities saw schools as being convenient places to begin the process of creating a new army for the new country. The 1903 Defence Act had allowed the creation of a voluntary cadet system in schools and in 1905 state education authorities had agreed to supervise this so long as the Defence Department left 'the general control of the [cadet] movement to the Directors of Education'.<sup>2</sup>

South Australian Premier Thomas Price and Treasurer Archibald Peake visited Mount Gambier in June 1906. On that occasion Captain James Fowler, head teacher of Mount Gambier Public School, raised the possibility of forming a cadet corps<sup>3</sup> at Mount Gambier. Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Townshend Wallack (State Commandant of South Australian forces) and Lieutenant-Colonel Charles James Reade (South Australian Chief Staff Officer) visited Mount Gambier in July as a follow-up. While in Mount Gambier they inspected local military volunteers.<sup>4</sup> In April 1907 the *Border Watch* reported that two teachers at Mount Gambier Public School, W.J.

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<sup>2</sup> D. Kirk & K. Twigg, 'The militarization of school physical training in Australia', *History of Education*, 1993, vol.22, no.4, p.395.

<sup>3</sup> According to a report in the *Border Watch*, 21 July 1906, p.2, a cadet corps would be made up of 60 boys aged over 12, with a minimum height of 4'6". The Defence Department would provide 12/6 for each uniform and the corps would be supplied with rifles and some ammunition.

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*

Bartlett and E.S. Bartholomaeus, had been appointed lieutenants on probation in the Commonwealth Cadet Corps.<sup>5</sup> On 25 May the school's cadets were actively involved in its Empire Day activities.<sup>6</sup> A few days later the newly-appointed Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Military District (headquarters in Adelaide), Lieutenant-Colonel John Henry Alexander Lee, visited Mount Gambier to inspect local volunteers and then the newly-formed cadet corps (numbering about 40 boys) at the Mount Gambier Public School.<sup>7</sup>



***Mount Gambier Junior Cadets, 1906: Ted Bartholomaeus (teacher), Bill Bartlett, Percy Moody, Jack Shepherd, Les Peacock, Harry Bartlett, Bill Williams, Harry Cornish, Horace Brown, Alex Gaden, Jim Roughan, Fred Sheather, Norm Taylor, Alex Reinecke, Frank Coonan, Rolland, Harold Green, Hurtle von Stanke, Harold Eager, Cyril Howland, Alan Palmer, Bill Shaughnessy, Mr R. Gaden. (Les Hill Collection)***

In June 1907 Major-General John Charles Hoad, Inspector General of the Commonwealth Military Forces, visited Mount Gambier. In a speech he made during a civic reception in the Town Hall he gave his support for cadet corps associated with schools, which, he believed, would provide a sound basis for citizen's army on which Australia could rely for its immediate defence needs. 'The cadet training would', he said, 'be of great service to the volunteer movement as it would facilitate the training of their troops.'<sup>8</sup> In the afternoon, before inspecting the companies of local volunteers and rifle clubs (who had also been invited), Hoad inspected the cadet corps at the school. Here, Captain Fowler had 60 cadets under student section leaders Hurtle von Stanke, Taylor Ray Morris and Horace Brown (including the school band of 25) undergoing exercises in the schoolyard in anticipation of his arrival. Hoad was surprised to find that the cadets were without uniforms or rifles, a problem he promised to

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<sup>5</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 April 1907, p.2.

<sup>6</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 May 1907, p.3. Similar displays put on for the school's annual Visiting Day on Thursday 26 September, *Border Watch*, 28 September 1907, p.2.

<sup>7</sup> *Border Watch*, 29 May 1907, p.4.

<sup>8</sup> *Border Watch*, 15 June 1907, p.4.

rectify. Not surprisingly, given Hoad's rank, the *Border Watch* was able to report in August that the uniforms had arrived<sup>9</sup> which they wore to a church parade at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church on 18 August.<sup>10</sup>

Early in 1908 Lieutenant-Colonel Lee again visited Mount Gambier to inspect the volunteer military companies and while present he again inspected the cadets at the public school.<sup>11</sup> A few days before, Lieutenant E.M. Ralph (Staff Officer of Cadets) had visited Mount Gambier and given the cadet corps a course of drill and instruction to prepare them for a cadet camp, which would also involve cadets from Narracoorte and Millicent, planned to be held on the Mount Gambier showground in April.<sup>12</sup> The subsequent camp, which ran from Friday 24 to Tuesday 28 April inclusive, was under the command of Major A.H. Neale (Commanding Officer of Cadets) and was attended by 33 cadets from Mount Gambier under Lieutenants Bartholomaeus and Bartlett, 28 from Narracoorte and 16 from Millicent. Activities centred mainly round company drills and rifle and musketry exercises. Cadets were allowed to attend the church services of their own particular Christian denominations on Sunday morning.<sup>13</sup> A larger scale cadet camp in Adelaide planned for December had to be postponed at the last minute.<sup>14</sup>

On Tuesday afternoon 19 May 1908 the Mount Gambier Cadet Company was put through its first lessons in rifle shooting under the command of Lieutenant Bartholomaeus at the Moorak range. Cadets shot from 50 yards and 100 yards using Francotte rifles.<sup>15</sup>

In April 1908 it was reported that Captain Fowler had been instructed to form a company of senior cadets aged 14 to 19.<sup>16</sup> On 28 July 21 young men became members, filling most of the 30 proposed limit. The unit was placed under the command of Lieutenant Bartholomaeus, who had previously been in command of the junior cadets. Lieutenant W. Bartlett was appointed to replace him in this role. Regular drills were planned for each Tuesday evening, to be eventually followed by shooting (with .303 rifles) and field work.<sup>17</sup> In early August Lieutenant Ralph visited as part of his regular inspection of South-East cadet companies and chatted with the boys who had enrolled as members of the Mount Gambier Senior Cadet Company.<sup>18</sup>

The Empire Day celebrations at Mount Gambier Public School provide an insight into the importance of imperial patriotism, promoted at the time as an essential component of citizenship. Empire Day 1908 had fallen on a Sunday, but its lessons were deemed too important to overlook, so Captain Fowler held an assembly of the approximately 450 children present in the school yard at 11.30am on Monday 25 May. The school did not possess its own

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<sup>9</sup> *Border Watch*, 10 August 1907, p.2.

<sup>10</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 August 1907, p.2.

<sup>11</sup> *Border Watch*, 7 December 1907, p.3.

<sup>12</sup> *Border Watch*, 16 February 1908, p.3.

<sup>13</sup> *Border Watch*, 29 April 1908, pp.2-3.

<sup>14</sup> *Border Watch*, 2 December 1908, p.2.

<sup>15</sup> *Border Watch*, 20 May 1908, p.4.

<sup>16</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 April 1908, p.2.

<sup>17</sup> *Border Watch*, 29 July 1908, p.3.

<sup>18</sup> *Border Watch*, 5 August 1908, p.2.

flagpole, so two students held the Union Jack while other students saluted it and recited 'I pledge my hand and heart to my King and country; one country, one flag. God save the King and the Empire.' The school's cadets were an important part of the day's events:

There were 18 of them, under the command of Lieut[enant]s Bartholomaeus and Hosking. They looked smart and neat in their khaki uniforms. It appears there are about 50 on the roll, but some of them have no uniforms, and that of others is unfit to wear, and they are not, therefore, there as cadets.<sup>19</sup>

Several speakers drew attention to the importance of the cadets. Mr John Watson (Chairman of the school's Board of Advice) pointed out that:

In Australia they are protected in a measure by the British fleets and name, and certain nations that would like to come and take possession of a slice of their country were thus deterred from doing so. The people had, therefore, enjoyed a time of great peace and prosperity. It was desirable now, however, to do something to take care of themselves. He was glad to see the cadets there. They must do something more in that direction, and the Commonwealth Government were taking measures with that view. He was sure all the boys would be pleased when they reached the proper age to take a share in the athletic and military drill that was to be provided for.<sup>20</sup>

Captain Williams of the Mount Gambier Scottish Company also stressed their importance:

He hoped all the children would do their best to be good and worthy of the Empire to which they belonged, and that the boys, as they became old enough, would join the cadet company, and later on pass out of that into other companies, and be able, if the time came, to help their country.<sup>21</sup>

The ceremony concluded with the cadets being moved to the front of the assembly, a royal salute, the National Anthem and three cheers for the King, the Governor, Mr Watson and other guests present.

In October 1908 the South Australian Governor, Sir George Le Hunte, and Lady Le Hunte visited Mount Gambier. They visited Mount Gambier Public School on the afternoon of 23 October, to be met by a reception committee that included the School Board, the new head teacher, Mr T.S. Bosch, and Lieutenant Herbert Clifton Hosking who was in charge of the school cadets. A guard of honour of 18 cadets was drawn up at the school gate and presented arms for the official party while the school band of about 40 played the National Anthem. Teachers and children from Glenburnie, Sutton Town, Yahl, Compton and Square Mile were also present for the occasion.<sup>22</sup>

On the afternoon of 28 February 1909 the Australian Governor-General, Lord Dudley, arrived in Mount Gambier. The *Border Watch* reported that 'His Excellency came to the Mount expressly for the quail shooting' so not surprisingly he and his party spent much of the next day at Benara Station, a popular location for this activity at the time. After an official welcome

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<sup>19</sup> *Border Watch*, 27 May 1908, p.2.

<sup>20</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> *Border Watch*, 24 October 1908, p.3.

in the Town Hall that night, His Excellency continued with quail shooting the following day before paying a visit to the Boy's Institute. Wednesday was spent visiting the Convent School in the morning and the Mount Gambier Public School in the afternoon.<sup>23</sup> As with previous vice-regal visits, the school welcome included a guard of honour made up of cadets, and the school band playing the National Anthem.<sup>24</sup>



***South Australian Governor Sir George Le Hunte arriving at Mount Gambier Public School, October 1908. (Les Hill Collection)***

At 9.30pm on 5 April 1909 a special train left Mount Gambier carrying 33 members of the local Half Squadron of Australian Light Horse (along with 35 members from Millicent) bound for a planned Easter camp at Brighton. At Naracoorte they were joined by 67 members of the Naracoorte Squadron. They were followed by the infantry companies the next day, being joined by men from Penola on the way. About 20 senior cadets under Lieutenant Hosking were on the same train but were bound instead for Fort Glanville.<sup>25</sup> Hosking had been appointed as lieutenant in charge of senior cadets, replacing Lieutenant Bartholomaeus in this role.<sup>26</sup> Following this camp, local authorities were notified by telegram that:

Cadet Harry Cornish, of the Mount Gambier Public School, who went to the Easter encampment, had won the rifle competition for members of his company, and the first honors in the battalion competition. The prizes he received were a gold medal and £3 in cash.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> *Border Watch*, 3 March 1909, pp.2-3.

<sup>24</sup> *Border Watch*, 6 March 1909, p.1.

<sup>25</sup> *Border Watch*, 7 April 1909, p.3.

<sup>26</sup> *Border Watch*, 10 April 1909, p.3.

<sup>27</sup> *Border Watch*, 14 April 1909, p.3.

Soon after, Hosking was instructed to increase the membership of his senior cadets from its existing strength of 29 to about 80. In late April the senior cadets began a course of instruction with Martini-Enfield rifles on the local range.<sup>28</sup> Lieutenant Bartlett, now in charge of the junior cadets, was promoted to the rank of captain.<sup>29</sup>

Empire Day was celebrated on Monday 24 May 1909. Mount Gambier Public School published an open invitation to the public to visit<sup>30</sup> and about 250 locals took up the offer. The school had recently been presented with a flagpole by Captain Heaver so students did not have to hold the Union Jack as had been the case previously. From 11am when the school was opened to the public, lessons in most classes centred round the flag. At midday, the head teacher, Mr Bosch, called an assembly which, in many ways, resembled that of the previous year:

Mr Bosch said, 'I want the children now to salute the flag.' Bugler Cornish blew the royal salute on his cornet, and then the whole of the children saluted the flag. Following that they repeated after the head master the words 'I love my King, I love my country, and I will obey her laws.'<sup>31</sup>

Following this, Mr Watson made his speech, which emphasised the importance of the cadets, as he had done the previous year:

They had a cadet corps here, and he hoped the cadet movement would spread. He hoped, all the same, the time would never come when they would have to defend their country, but in these times it was well to be prepared.<sup>32</sup>

Local Methodist minister, the Reverend William Henry Cann, echoed these sentiments to the children, but stressed to them there were more immediate concerns to address:

'Righteousness exalteth a nation,' and so long as they were right, and tried to do their duty before men and God, they would succeed. He believed the boys would, if there were a call to arms, be ready to defend their country. But there were some evils in their midst that required to be fought against, such as drunkenness, gambling, and bad language.<sup>33</sup>

The day's celebrations concluded with a short address by Mr Bosch, three cheers for the King, and the children and visitors singing the National Anthem 'God Save the King'.

On the occasion of the Mount Gambier Public School's annual Visiting Day on 31 August 1909, the head teacher, Mr Bosch, made mention of the 'success of the cadets connected with the school, who had won from all the other companies of cadets in the State the handsome silver cup that was offered for rifle shooting for the year.' The cup was on display in the classroom of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes.

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<sup>28</sup> *Border Watch*, 24 April 1909, p.3.

<sup>29</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 May 1909, p.3.

<sup>30</sup> *Border Watch*, 19 May 1909, p.2.

<sup>31</sup> *Border Watch*, 26 May 1909, pp.2-3.

<sup>32</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> *ibid.*



**Mount Gambier Junior Cadets 1908. Harry Bartlett, Albert Boothey, Llew Williams, Gordon Beauchamp, Art Kuhl, Bill Naylor, Alan Steele, Ern Lewis, Bill Meyers, Lindsay Talbot, Alec Lawson, Roy Criddle, Jack McPhee, Art Crafter, Alf Cornish, Max Brown, Cyril Howland, Harold Eager, Captain Bill Bartlett, Alan Palmer, Alan Plate, Alec Reinecke, Les Peacock, Frank Beauchamp, Reg Ellis, Mel Peacock. (Les Hill Collection)**

On Wednesday 20 October 1909 the new South Australian Governor, Sir Day Hort Bosanquet, arrived by train for a visit to Mount Gambier. After a day of official duties he attended a performance by a touring group from Melbourne, City Entertainers, in the Institute Hall. At this concert the senior cadets, under Lieutenant A.T.B. Gillett, formed a guard of honor for the governor.<sup>34</sup> As part of this official visit, His Excellency visited Mount Gambier Public School on Friday morning. As was usual for such an occasion, he was greeted by the head teacher, Mr Bosch, the Chairman of the Board of Advice for the school Mr John Watson, and another member of the Board, Mr John Faull Palamountain. 'The school band played the National Anthem and the cadets, under Lieut[enant] Hosking, gave a royal salute.' Following this he was then shown through the school and before leaving addressed the students who were assembled in the schoolyard for this purpose.<sup>35</sup>

In November 1909 the *Border Watch* also reported that there were plans to create a squadron of mounted cadets in South Australia and it was suggested that rural areas such as Mount Gambier might make a significant contribution:

We have the boys, and we also have the horses, and the want of the latter is the drawback to many places. To be eligible boys must be over 14 and under 19 years of age. They must be physically fit, and provide horses and saddlery. The Government provide a liberal allowance for cost of management, and as the mounted is the elite

<sup>34</sup> *Border watch*, 23 October 1909, p.4.

<sup>35</sup> *Border Watch*, 23 October 1909, pp.2-3.

branch of the service it is certain that if this movement were started here on sound lines the result will be decidedly successful.<sup>36</sup>

In September the *Border Watch* had published an editorial which signalled that changes would be forthcoming in the local contribution to the nation's defence provisions. The subject of this editorial was the 1909 Defence Bill which proposed the creation of an Australian Fleet which would become the Royal Australian Navy. It would also involve a major reshuffle of the existing land forces, though based essentially around a foundation of young men 12 to 18 years of age formed into cadet corps.<sup>37</sup>

The South Australian Commandant, Colonel Lee, inspected local military companies in March and April 1910. On the second occasion he also inspected the junior cadets, who were under the command of Lieutenant Davies, at the school. In the evening he inspected the Senior Cadets, who were under command of Lieutenant Hosking, in the Drill Hall.<sup>38</sup>

In early May the results of exams on military regulations, standing orders and practical drill held during an Easter camp at Brighton were announced. Lieutenants W.J. Gunn and H.C. Hosking passed with honours.<sup>39</sup> In July Hosking was promoted to the rank of Captain,<sup>40</sup> and was in command of the senior cadets, assisted by Lieutenants A. Gillett and L. Taylor, during the half-yearly inspection held on 12 August.<sup>41</sup>

On 20 May 1910 the junior cadets and senior cadets took part in the local memorial service following the death of King Edward VII. They accompanied local military units in a procession along Commercial Street and added to the crowd of about 4,000 who were assembled for the service.<sup>42</sup> Coming so close to Empire Day, many events planned for Empire Day were subsequently cancelled, and those that did go ahead were modified.<sup>43</sup>

In June it was announced that the Defence Department had invited applications for non-commissioned officers of an instructional staff in preparation for an expansion of the nation's military forces. This staff would start to enter camp from mid-July and would remain in camp until December. They would then be distributed around Australia to assist in the training of a new army, which would begin early the following year. Several locals had applied.<sup>44</sup> In August it was also announced that the government was going to convert existing volunteer regiments into paid militia.<sup>45</sup>

This was not the only interest shown by the Defence Department in getting behind local efforts to improve the quality of volunteers it had at its disposal. In August it was announced that the Mount Gambier Senior Cadet Company had received £6 from the government to

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<sup>36</sup> *Border Watch*, 10 November 1909, p.3.

<sup>37</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 September 1909, p.2.

<sup>38</sup> *Border Watch*, 9 April 1910, p.3.

<sup>39</sup> *Border Watch*, 4 May 1910, p.4.

<sup>40</sup> *Border Watch*, 6 July 1910, p.3.

<sup>41</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 August 1910, p.1.

<sup>42</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 May 1910, p.3.

<sup>43</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 May 1910, p.2.

<sup>44</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 June 1910, p.3; 13 August 1910, p.1.

<sup>45</sup> *Border Watch*, 31 August 1910, p.3.

purchase prizes to be awarded to encourage cadets to improve their shooting. This money was used to purchase three small bore rifles to use as first prizes and three shaving outfits to use as second prizes. A rifle shooting competition was held in late August at the rifle range at Moorak. The 43 senior cadets competing were divided into three sections. Each competitor was to fire seven rounds at 200, 400 and 500 yards and their scores compiled. Prizes were presented at a social held in the Rechabite Hall in early September.<sup>46</sup>



***Procession along Commercial Street, Mount Gambier, which proceeded the memorial funeral service for King Edward VII. The military units can be seen in the middle distance. (Les Hill Collection)***

In October local military volunteers spent a day in military operations simulating an attack on Mount Gambier by an enemy force. Both forces, the attackers (or blue force), and the defenders (or red force), were made up of locals. The red force included senior cadets under Lieutenants Gillett and Taylor. The day's operations were followed by a debriefing session and an evaluation by Lieutenant Raper of the Instructional Staff who had observed the day's activities.<sup>47</sup>

Two major conferences were held in Melbourne, the first in June 1909, the second in March 1910, involving military authorities and state leaders in education, to work out the details of the proposed junior cadet training scheme. It was agreed that physical training specialists would be provided by the military to train school teachers to run the scheme in schools and

<sup>46</sup> *Border Watch*, 3 September 1910, pp.3, 7.

<sup>47</sup> *Border Watch*, 12 October 1910, p.4.

medical inspections would be incorporated to ensure children were assessed as to their suitability for involvement in the programme.<sup>48</sup>

In 1911 the federal government introduced a new scheme for the defence of Australia. Known as the Universal Service Scheme because of its compulsory requirements, it remained in place until 1929. It was based on the recommendations of Lord Kitchener, who had visited Australia in 1909 at the invitation of then Prime Minister Alfred Deakin, and was aimed at creating a citizen military force capable of defending the new nation against possible attack.<sup>49</sup> Kitchener believed that 84 battalions of infantry, 54 batteries of artillery and 28 regiments of light horse would be required to defend the nation. Another of his recommendations, the creation of a military college to train professional officers, also came into existence in 1911 with the establishment of the Royal Military College, Duntroon. The new scheme would create '93 battalion areas [made up of over 200 training areas], of which nine would be in South Australia, with 24 training areas.'<sup>50</sup>

The nation was divided up into exempt and non-exempt areas, depending on population distribution. Since large areas of Australia were only sparsely populated, including them in the scheme would be completely impractical, and so such areas were consequently proclaimed as exempt. Individuals living more than five miles from a place of training could also seek exemption. Other exemptions included members of the regular forces, teachers involved in training cadets, theological students and requirements were modified for those 'not substantially of European origin or descent'. Conscientious exemption was not considered as grounds for exemption.<sup>51</sup> Historian John Barrett argues that so many eligible individuals were exempt that the scheme could hardly be considered as universal.

Each brigade area (made up of four battalion areas) would have a Brigade-Major (responsible to the District Commandant), an Assistant Brigade-Major and a permanent instructor. Each training area would have an area officer and an instructor. Captain de Passey was appointed Brigade-Major of the 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade with headquarters at Narracoorte. Lieutenant Kidman was appointed Area Officer, also based in Narracoorte. Sergeant-Major L. Seymour was to be Assistant Area Officer and would be based in Mount Gambier.<sup>52</sup> A reporter for the *Border Watch* expressed some consternation at the choice of Narracoorte for Brigade headquarters:

It is hard to understand, when it is remembered that Narracoorte, which cannot, by reason of its limited population, be adopted as a training area at present, and is not near the centre of the bulk of the South-Eastern population, should be thus made the centre of the South-Eastern military system. South of Penola, there are now eight companies (military, rifle clubs and cadets), and in a few months, under the new system, the number under training will be greatly increased. Yet to attend them the brigade-major and area officer will have to be repeatedly journeying backwards and

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<sup>48</sup> Kirk & Twigg, *op. cit.*, pp.396-401.

<sup>49</sup> The scheme eventually introduced was a modified version of that proposed by Kitchener. See John Barrett, *Falling In. Australians and 'Boy Conscription' 1911-1915*, Sydney, 1979, ch.2.

<sup>50</sup> *Border watch*, 7 January 1911, p.3.

<sup>51</sup> Barrett, *op. cit.*, pp.69-72.

<sup>52</sup> Barrett, *op. cit.*, pp.75-78.

forwards from Narracoorte, where there will, of necessity, be a comparatively small number of trainees.<sup>53</sup>

This issue was to be ongoing. In November 1912, the *Border Watch* ran an editorial which continued to criticise these arrangements:

On three occasions of late the cadets have gathered at the drill hall, have waited for a considerable time, and finally have been compelled to return to their homes without drill ...

When applications were called for the position of Area Officer for this district one condition was that the successful applicant must reside at Mount Gambier ... Lieut[enant] S. Kidman, of Narracoorte, was appointed to the position, and he has not resided at Mount Gambier.<sup>54</sup>

Subsequently Lieutenant George King, previously commanding officer of the Light Horse at Mount Gambier was appointed to replace Kidman when he resigned.<sup>55</sup>



***Female students of Mount Gambier High School at Hoop Drill. If the suggested date of 1909 is correct the local high school must have instituted a programme of physical education even before the introduction of the Universal Service Scheme. (Les Hill Collection)***

Under the new scheme, students who were twelve or thirteen years of age would be involved in the junior cadets. They would be enrolled through the schools.<sup>56</sup> They would be required to complete a minimum of ninety hours training a year and were to be inspected annually by a military officer. Their training was to be made up of marching drill, first aid, rifle shooting,

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<sup>53</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 January 1911, p.2.

<sup>54</sup> *Border Watch*, 20 November 1912, p.2.

<sup>55</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 January 1913, p.3. King had been born in Mount Gambier in 1881. He enlisted in 1916, and served as a Captain with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, being awarded the Military Cross in August 1917. He returned to Australia in early 1918 and was discharged 'medically unfit'.

<sup>56</sup> Barrett, *op. cit.*, p.69.

and physical conditioning through swimming and running.<sup>57</sup> (A cursory reading of the *Border Watch* and this time would suggest that a 'crackdown' on school attendance coincided with the introduction of the scheme to support students in completing the required hours.) Cadets who committed breaches of discipline were generally punished by extra periods of training. The operation of this junior cadet scheme was to be inspected annually.<sup>58</sup> When agreeing to the introduction of the scheme, education authorities insisted that girls also be catered for.

To prepare teachers, the military made instructional staff available to run professional development courses, at the end of which teacher candidates had to complete practical and theory exams. A fortnight's school of physical drill for teachers south of a line from Beachport to Coonawarra took place at Port MacDonnell between 7 and 21 March 1913, all schools within the area being closed during this time. Captain William John Kinnish was appointed as instructor for the 20 male teachers and Lieutenant H.T. Wooley as instructor for the 29 female teachers (who were required to cater for female students). Mr Victor John Pavia (ex-head teacher at Mount Gambier Public School and then head teacher at Norwood) was appointed by the Education Department as its representative. The Defence Department paid for the cost of hotel accommodation and travel. The intention of this Teachers' Physical School was to in-service teachers so the new physical drill course for junior cadets would be properly taught.<sup>59</sup>

Planned activities for the first week involved an hour of swimming, 2 hours of the theory behind physical training (lectures on physiology) and 3 hours of physical training. The second week involved an hour of swimming, 4 hours of physical training, an hour and a half of organised games, and on two days an hour of first aid and on the other days an extra hour of physical training. The day started at 7am and went till 5pm with a break for lunch from 12.30 to 2pm. The weekends were spent in an hour of swimming starting at 7am, followed by an hour of organised games, an hour of first aid and an hour and a half of physical training. On the first week the weather was so rough that 'land drill' and 'life saving' drill was done on shore. The swimming certificate was only granted to those who could swim 100 yards and give a practical demonstration of life saving.<sup>60</sup>

The introduction of the scheme for senior cadets was rather more problematic, since few young men remained in public schools beyond the age of compulsion. In early January the *Border Watch* warned readers that parents of sons between 14 and 18 would have to register their sons or face stiff penalties.<sup>61</sup> Forms would be available from post offices. The original deadline of January 31 was extended to February 14.<sup>62</sup>

Later that same month the *Border Watch* reported that F and G Companies of the local volunteers had been 'merged' with the militia, and the members would be entitled to 8/- each a day for 16 days drill in the year,<sup>63</sup> pointing out that soon vacancies would be filled from the

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<sup>57</sup> P. Dennis (et. al.), *The Oxford Companion to Australian Military History*, Melbourne, 1995, pp.174-5.

<sup>58</sup> C. Stockings, 'Khaki in the classroom', *History of Education Review*, vol.37, no.1, 2008, pp.16-33 provides a good summary of the workings of the junior cadet scheme in schools.

<sup>59</sup> *Border Watch*, 5 March 1913, p.2.

<sup>60</sup> *Border Watch*, 15 March 1913, p.2; 19 March 1913, p.2.

<sup>61</sup> *Border Watch*, 7 January 1911, p.3.

<sup>62</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 February 1911, p.3.

<sup>63</sup> *Border Watch*, 18 January 1911, p.3.

Senior Cadets and suggesting any young man too old for cadets should consider joining to avail themselves of such paid opportunities.

In March 1911 the *Border Watch* published information that Captain Surgeon McMillan of Narracoorte would conduct medical examinations for those who had registered as senior cadets in the South-East. The Area Officer reported approximately 800 enrolments in the South-East up to the end of February. At Mount Gambier 260 had registered, 95 at Narracoorte, 70 at Millicent, 30 at Penola, 35 at Border Town and about 280 at other places in the area.<sup>64</sup> Of those who had registered in Mount Gambier, 214 were passed fit and living within the prescribed five miles of the post office, 32 were passed but lived outside the five mile limit, and three had failed the medical. It was estimated that between sixty and eighty had failed to register.<sup>65</sup>

The 214 were divided into two companies of 107 (I and J Companies), 32 of which were accepted for training as non-commissioned officers. Those from I Company who were successful included A.C. Plate, A.C. Boothey and A.R. Criddle (sergeant), and D. MacGillivray and L.C. Taylor (lance-corporal); from J Company A.J. Leamey (corporal). Captain Hosking was made commanding officer of I Company, with Lieutenants C. Gillett and N. Taylor as his subalterns.

Cadets registered under the new defence scheme paraded for the first time at 2pm on Wednesday 12 July at the Drill Hall. About 160 were on time and about another 20 stragglers came in during the afternoon. They were addressed by Kidman, then marched to the public school ground. Here they were issued with a syllabus of drills for the quarter and addressed by Anglican rector Reverend Reginald Kingsmill Collison. The companies then separated, Staff Sergeant-Major Seymour addressing I Company and Staff Sergeant-Major Batterham addressing J Company, about the 'essential qualities of a soldier': discipline, regular attendance at parades, punctuality, respect to seniors and officers. They then were put through an hour and a half of squad drill.<sup>66</sup>

Some idea of cadet drill requirements can be gathered from the following sequence. The J Company cadets had six hours parade on Wednesday 23 August, which was attended by 86 out of the 107. This began at 2pm, when they were marched to Vansittart Park, exercised in squad and physical drill until 5.30pm, broke for tea until 7.15, then resumed squad drill till 9pm.<sup>67</sup> I Company had a similar parade on Wednesday 13 September which was attended by 91 out of 103.<sup>68</sup> There was a united parade of both companies on Wednesday 25 October when 175 mustered at the Drill Hall. 'A considerable number of the older cadets had gone into the country temporarily to work and had to be given leave of absence.'<sup>69</sup> Attendance seemed to decline as the end of the year approached. Only 51 of the 105 on the roll turned

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<sup>64</sup> *Border Watch*, 4 March 1911, p.3.

<sup>65</sup> *Border Watch*, 17 May 1911, pp.2-3.

<sup>66</sup> *Border Watch*, 15 July 1911, p.1.

<sup>67</sup> *Border Watch*, 26 August 1911, p.4.

<sup>68</sup> *Border Watch*, 16 September 1911, p.3.

<sup>69</sup> *Border Watch*, 28 October 1911, p.2.

up to a J Company parade on Wednesday 15 November.<sup>70</sup> Cadet uniforms, rifles and other kit were finally delivered to the Drill Hall on 17 November.<sup>71</sup> Some consideration of problems associated with compulsory attendance at drills was addressed in October the following year when Senator Pearce, Minister for Defence, decided that there should be no drill for senior cadets from 15 December till mid-January because those attending college usually spent their Christmas holidays away from a training centre.<sup>72</sup> This, of course, did not address the problems associated with attendance for young men who were itinerant workers.

Failure to prosecute those who had not registered in the previous year had encouraged parents not to bother. Some mistakenly thought names would automatically be transferred from junior cadet rolls or that registration was unnecessary until a boy actually had his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday.<sup>73</sup> For the first year compulsory military training virtually operated without the backing of effective penalties.<sup>74</sup> Locally, this was the case also. In March 1912 the *Border Watch* published a warning:

Complaint is made that many cadets have failed to attend drill regularly; not a few of them wilfully neglect to attend, and rely on the good nature of the authorities to escape unpleasant consequences. It is now announced that defaulters will be prosecuted after June 30 next. They are under obligation to put in 64 hours per year at drill: if they have not done so for the year ending June 30 next they will be punished. The failure of boys attaining the age of 14 to register will also lead to prosecutions.<sup>75</sup>

Perhaps as a warning to other local youths, ten young men were brought before the local magistrate for failing to meet their drill requirements, the logic probably being along the lines of naming and shaming them. They pleaded guilty and were each charged fifteen shillings costs and their cases adjourned for two months to give them the opportunity to fulfil their requirements.<sup>76</sup> In January one of these youths was charged with still not having met the required amount of drills, the prosecution arguing that he had been in court on the same charge in September the year before and had failed to make good on a promise to catch up missed hours of drills. He pleaded guilty but stated in his defence that he had tried to make up the hours but had fallen short. He was initially fined five pounds (or in default, imprisonment for 20 days) and ordered into the custody of the Area Officer for four days to make up the required hours. The magistrate however reduced this to a fine of two pounds plus fifteen shillings costs on this individual promising to make up the required hours.

In December, two other youths were charged with failing to attend compulsory drills. The first pleaded guilty, was fined five shillings plus fifteen shillings costs and required to make up missed drills. The second pleaded not guilty on account of being away from the district for some and being injured on another occasion, was nevertheless found guilty and was fined twenty-five shillings plus costs. The magistrate made the point that future incidents of

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<sup>70</sup> *Border Watch*, 18 November 1911, p.2.

<sup>71</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>72</sup> *Border Watch*, 23 October 1912, p.2.

<sup>73</sup> Barrett, *op. cit.*, p.128.

<sup>74</sup> *ibid.*, p.133.

<sup>75</sup> *Border Watch*, 16 March 1912, p.2.

<sup>76</sup> *Border Watch*, 11 September 1912, p.2.

defaulting would not get off so lightly.<sup>77</sup> In January 1914 another youth was charged with having failed to attend a compulsory drill, pleaded guilty and was fined one pound plus fifteen shillings costs (or in default, 14 days detention).<sup>78</sup> Reports such as these cannot be taken as a true indication of the extent to which local youths chose to default on their requirements under the Defence Act, as there is no guarantee that all such cases were reported in the local press.

Early in 1912 the *Border Watch* published a reminder to boys who would turn 14 in 1912 that they had to register as cadets before the end of January. The first half-day parade was planned for 24 January and there was still no rifle range available so musketry practice was going to be problematic<sup>79</sup> as the new cadets were supposed to have completed a musketry course by February 1912. The old range had closed on 31 May 1911 and no rifle range was readily available to replace it.<sup>80</sup> Colonel Haviland Le Mesurier, State Military Commandant, visited Mount Gambier on Wednesday 21 February 1912 to inspect a site near Moorak homestead in an attempt to solve this problem.<sup>81</sup> In May the *Border Watch* lamented the fact that the absence of a rifle range meant that local cadets were disadvantaged when it came to the upcoming competition to decide the champion company that would represent Australia in competitions in Canada and so local cadets were unlikely to be selected.<sup>82</sup> On 28 May, local military authorities spoke about the problems associated with not having a rifle range to the Premier, Archibald Henry Peake, during his visit to Mount Gambier. Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Henry Daniel pointed out that the three military units and two cadet companies had not had a rifle range for the past twelve months.<sup>83</sup>

In June 1912 the *Border Watch* published a report that the federal government had requested the State Public Buildings Department to prepare plans and estimates for the construction of miniature rifle ranges at a number of locations including Mount Gambier.<sup>84</sup> In August it was reported that £3,000 had been placed on federal estimates for establishing a rifle range at Mount Gambier.<sup>85</sup> Representatives from the Engineer's and Public Works Departments were in Mount Gambier on Thursday 7 November to lay out the new rifle range and it was planned that shooting practice should be able to recommence before the end of the year.<sup>86</sup> The new range was officially opened in April 1913.<sup>87</sup>

On Wednesday 1 May 1912 Major Frederick David Jermyn conducted medical examinations for passage of junior cadets to senior cadets. All of the 39 who presented themselves passed. Those wishing to move from senior cadets to the Commonwealth Forces had to be at least 5'4" in height, at least 33" around the chest, be free of any disease and have good eyesight.

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<sup>77</sup> *Border Watch*, 6 December 1913, p.1.

<sup>78</sup> *Border Watch*, 10 January 1914, p.4.

<sup>79</sup> *Border Watch*, 6 January 1912, p.2.

<sup>80</sup> *Border Watch*, 17 May 1911, pp.2-3; 5 August 1911, p.3.

<sup>81</sup> *Border Watch*, 28 February 1912, p.2.

<sup>82</sup> *Border Watch*, 4 May 1912, p.3.

<sup>83</sup> *Border Watch*, 1 June 1912, p.2.

<sup>84</sup> *Border Watch*, 29 June 1912, p.2.

<sup>85</sup> *Border Watch*, 10 August 1912, p.2.

<sup>86</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 November 1912, p.1.

<sup>87</sup> *Border Watch*, 26 April 1913, p.4.

Of the 31 who presented, one failed and two others were passed conditionally.<sup>88</sup> These medical examinations were, of course, an essential component of the operations of the local military. On Friday 7 June, 39 twelve year old boys from Mount Gambier were examined by Dr Jermyn for enrolment as junior cadets. All passed.<sup>89</sup>



***Crowd gathered for the opening of the new rifle range, located off Shepherdson Road, 1913. (Les Hill Collection.)***

The South Australian Governor, Sir Day Hort Bosanquet and his private secretary arrived in Mount Gambier by train on Friday 14 June 1912, to be met by an official party. Outside the railway station, 102 cadets under Lieutenant L.C. McCarthy formed a guard of honour.<sup>90</sup> On the following day they were addressed by His Excellency when they again provided a guard of honour, this time outside the Institute Hall.<sup>91</sup> Cadets acted as a guard of honour during a visit by several governors. On Tuesday 16 June 1914 the new South Australian Governor, Sir Henry Lionel Galway, arrived by train and about 50 cadets of I and J Companies under Second Lieutenant Schramm provided him with a guard of honour.<sup>92</sup>

At the start of 1913 the local military units were composed of 80 Light Horse, 60 C Company Infantry, 114 I Company senior cadets, and 105 J Company cadets.<sup>93</sup> Of the cadets, 78 transferred to the citizen forces in early July (46 to the infantry and 32 to the light horse) and a new draft called into the cadets as part of the annual progression.<sup>94</sup> On 11 August 1913 a Mount Gambier Senior Cadets Rifle Club was formed at a meeting in the Drill Hall. Captain Hosking was elected as its chairman.<sup>95</sup> On Sunday 14 September 1913, a service was held in the new Institute Hall at 3pm as part of a state-wide commemoration devoted to the memory

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<sup>88</sup> *Border Watch*, 4 May 1912, p.3.

<sup>89</sup> *Border Watch*, 12 June 1912, p.3.

<sup>90</sup> *Border Watch*, 15 June 1912, p.3.

<sup>91</sup> *Border Watch*, 19 June 1912, p.4.

<sup>92</sup> *Border Watch*, 17 June 1914, pp.2-3.

<sup>93</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 January 1913, p.3.

<sup>94</sup> *Border Watch*, 2 July 1913, p.2.

<sup>95</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 August 1913, p.3.

of those killed in the Boer War. Members of the various military companies (which included 110 cadets of I and J Companies under Captain Hosking and Lieutenants Palmer, Schramm and Parks) assembled at the Drill Hall and marched to the Institute. After the service they marched to the memorial to lay wreaths, followed by a crowd about 2,000<sup>96</sup> This became an annual event.



***Wreaths at Mount Gambier Boer War Memorial 1913. (Les Hill Collection)***



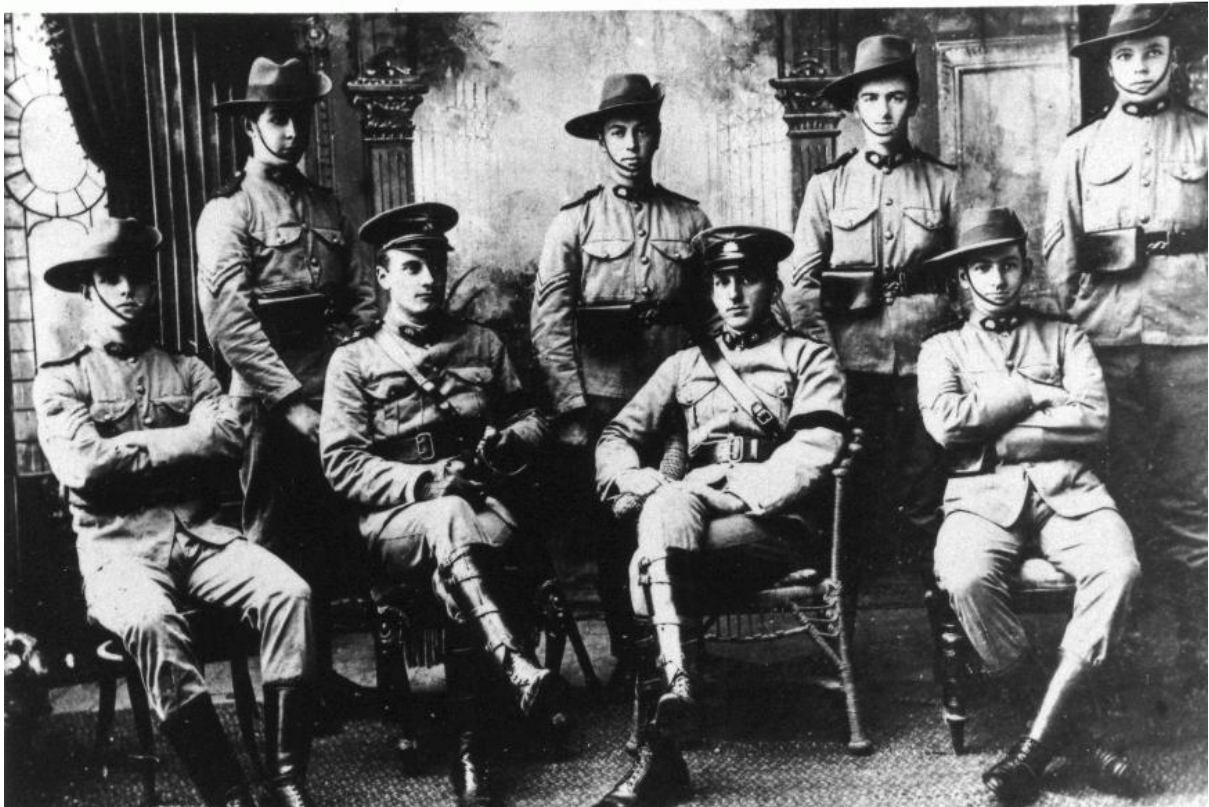
***Service at Mount Gambier Boer War Memorial 1913. (Les Hill Collection)***

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<sup>96</sup> *Border Watch*, 17 September 1913, p.1.



*Mount Gambier Senior Cadets in training camp 1914. (Les Hill Collection)*



*Mt Gambier Junior Military Men 1913. Les Palmer, Theo Wright, Norman Taylor, Cliff Hosking, Arthur Gillett, Cliff Gillett. Palmer and Wright would be killed in the coming conflict in which Norman Taylor and Cliff Gillett would also serve. (Les Hill Collection)*

A variety entertainment night was held at the new Institute Hall on 7 January 1914 to raise money to go toward the expenses of a cadet camp to be held at Port MacDonnell. This camp, to take place from Monday 12 to Wednesday 14 January, was to engage cadets in exercises such as physical drill, skirmishing drill and squad drill, in preparation for competitions at Mount Gambier and Mount Barker at the end of March or the beginning of April. About 80 cadets marched behind the Vice-Regal Band from the Drill Hall to the Institute under the command of Area-Officer King and Staff Sergeant-Major Gilpin prior to the start of the concert.<sup>97</sup> Routines involved Reveille at 6am; tidying the hall and sleeping compartments from 6 to 6.30; followed by a march to the baths for swimming parade before marching back to the hotel for breakfast at 7.30; military drill from 9 till 12; lunch at 12.30; drill again from 2 till 5. After this the cadets were allowed a few hours to themselves before tattoo at 9.45 and lights out at 10pm. There was one casualty:

There was unfortunately one accident, which occurred while the cadets were playing together on Wednesday at lunch time. A bicycle race was got up, and was run on the beach west of the township. Six competitors engaged in it. S[er]g[ean]t James Leamey was judge, and was standing at the finishing point. Two of the lads finished very close together, and when they passed the mark Leamey went over to see them, and as he did so his brother, on a bicycle, came up very fast behind him. James noticed that, and he and his brother tried to dodge one another, but failed, and the result was a collision. A pedal of the bicycle struck James on the right leg above the ankle and fractured it.

He was treated by a doctor and nurse who were at the port at the time and sent on to hospital in Mount Gambier.<sup>98</sup>

A far more drastic accident occurred several months later. A group of cadets from Moorak, Percy George Byass, Nicol Byass, Arthur Janeway, Arthur Whitehead and Charles Johnson, headed home on their bicycles after attending drill on Wednesday 22 April. Percy fell from his bike on Bay Road and was knocked unconscious. A neighbour rendered first aid and Percy regained consciousness. He was then conveyed home by Mrs J. Thompson and appeared better on arrival, so his parents did not call the doctor, but in the morning the fourteen-year-old was found dead in his bed. Dr Johnson determined the cause of death as a 'ruptured blood vessel near the brain.' Cadet Byass was accorded a military funeral. I and J Company Senior Cadets met at Buchanan's Corner, Punt Road (now the Nelson Road) on Saturday 25 April to attend the funeral.<sup>99</sup>

Military authorities often encouraged cadets to form sporting teams to compensate for some of the sport lost to drill. Football clubs representing the Mount Gambier military units came and went. In late April 1910, the Senior Cadet Football Club held a meeting and office-bearers were elected. Its colours were red and blue.<sup>100</sup> In early November its members held a social in the Rechabite Hall to reflect on the season's efforts.<sup>101</sup> In 1911 the name of the Senior

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<sup>97</sup> *Border Watch*, 10 January 1914, p.2.

<sup>98</sup> *Border Watch*, 17 January 1914, p.4.

<sup>99</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 April 1914, p.2.

<sup>100</sup> *Border Watch*, 4 May 1910, p.3.

<sup>101</sup> *Border Watch*, 5 November 1910, p.3.

Cadet Football Club was changed to Rovers Football Club.<sup>102</sup> In 1915 about 50 members of local military forces met in the Drill Hall and formed the Military Football Club, with colours of red, white and blue.<sup>103</sup> The club went into recess during the season however, as did the Mount Gambier Football Association generally. This was primarily out of necessity as more young footballers enlisted. There was, of course, the pressure to suspend sporting competitions generally, bolstered by the general perception that if young men were fit enough to play football they should be enlisting for 'the real game'. Victorian Football League and South Australian Football League competitions went into recess for this very reason, though a few clubs continued to field teams. In Adelaide, Port Adelaide and West Adelaide formed a Patriotic Football League along with a number of amateur clubs, donating gate takings to war-related causes. In Mount Gambier a Cadet Football Club continued to field teams in matches arranged against other similar teams from nearby regional towns.<sup>104</sup> This was acceptable as they were seen as keeping fit to prepare for the time when they were old enough to enlist.



**Mount Gambier Rovers Football Club 1913. Pal Martiensen, Alf Millhouse, Art Millhouse, Jim Concannon, George Newton, George Nicholls, Harry Finch, Jack Temby, Hermie Schleter, H. McDonald, Otchin Spehr, Wally Lawes, Bert Higgs, George Cunningham, Arthur Pannell, Stan Clark, Frank Morris, Ern Weston, Tom Williams, Will McKinnon. (Les Hill Collection)**

War gave point to compulsory military training but it robbed the system of instructors as young male teachers enlisted and the AIF was given priority for equipment and camp facilities. The instruction of military cadets in South Australia was suspended between 1 October and 31 December 1915 as the instructors available were needed to train recruits for the Australian

<sup>102</sup> *Border Watch*, 29 March 1911, p.3.

<sup>103</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 April 1915, p.2.

<sup>104</sup> See, for example, *Border Watch*, 30 August 1916, p.1, which provided a match report on a match against Millicent played at Millicent, which was won by the Cadet Football Club, 3.5 to 1.5.

Imperial Force.<sup>105</sup> In Mount Gambier, cadet drill was resumed on Wednesday 19 January 1916. Lieutenant George King, late Area Officer, was given a send-off at Mac's Hotel on Wednesday, 26 April 1916, after enlisting.

## A NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Secondary schooling had been on the agenda of state governments as the 19<sup>th</sup> century came to an end. The emergence of Germany and the United States as economic powers to rival Britain convinced some that Australia and the dominions needed a working population with a higher standard of education, and that this education should not be restricted to those who could afford it.

As a transitional measure, continuation classes were created in a number of regional towns. Accordingly, the *Border Watch* made the following announcement in late 1906:

Captain Fowler informs us that the Minister of Education has determined to start a continuation class in connection with the Mount Gambier public school, providing the attendance of a sufficient number of boys and girls to justify its establishment can be guaranteed. The education will be free, but it is provided that students seeking enrolment must possess their fifth grade pass certificates ... The curriculum of the proposed class will embrace the following subjects: -- grammar, composition, and English literature; history and geography; arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry; chemistry and biology; drawing, Latin, and manual work. It is proposed to open the class in January, 1907 ...<sup>106</sup>

Hence, in early 1907 it reported:

The State schools will commence their work for the present year on Monday next ... Capt[ain] Fowler<sup>107</sup>, head master of the Mount Gambier school, will re-open with a practically new staff of teachers ... Mr H.G. Viney will open the Continuation Class, and will, until other accommodation be provided, have the use of the special classroom for his work.<sup>108</sup>

So, what was to become known as Mount Gambier High School emerged from its parent body, the Mount Gambier Public School (on the site of what is now the Wehl Street Theatre), as a Continuation Class of about 50 students in 1907 with Mr Horace George Viney as its teacher.<sup>109</sup> Mr Viney was transferred to Kadina at the end of 1907 and was replaced the following year by Mr Herbert Hosking who had been in charge of a similar class at Kapunda. During the early years it was an extension of the Public School, the Head Teacher of the Public School being responsible for both. According to a report in the *Border Watch* describing the

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<sup>105</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 September 1915, p.3.

<sup>106</sup> *Border Watch*, 3 November 1906, p.2.

<sup>107</sup> James Fowler (born 29 June 1850) was head teacher at Mount Gambier Public School from 3 September 1905 to 28 June 1908 when he was transferred to Walkerville. He retired in December 1921.

<sup>108</sup> *Border Watch*, 19 January 1907, p.2.

<sup>109</sup> *Border Watch*, 23 January 1907, p.2.

events of Visiting Day 1907 at the school, the 'number of scholars on the roll, including the Continuation School, was about 600.'<sup>110</sup> A few years later, increasing numbers in the Public School necessitated the senior students to use the Sons of Temperance Hall. In 1909 the continuation class was renamed the Mount Gambier District High School.

Schools were, at the time, staffed very differently to how they are today. South Australian schools were heavily reliant on the efforts of young people who had only just completed their education themselves and had chosen to remain in the hope of eventually rising to the ranks of teacher themselves. In an editorial based on the annual report of the South Australian Minister for Education in 1907 the *Border Watch* reported 'There are 1,389 teachers employed in the schools, 660 of whom were either provisional, or monitors or pupil teachers.'<sup>111</sup>



***Mount Gambier Public School (facing Wehl Street), 1913 (Les Hill Collection)***

During his speech at the Mount Gambier Public School's Empire Day celebrations in 1909 the head teacher, Mr Theodor Silas Bosch stated:

There were 500 children there that morning, of whom 121 were in the infant school, which said a good thing for the district. (Applause and laughter.) At the same time they would like to have another 40 in the high school. Then the Government would at once build a school suited for the occasion. He hoped to muster by the end of the year 70 in the high school. They had almost 40 at the time.<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> *Border Watch*, 28 September 1907, p.2.

<sup>111</sup> *Border Watch*, 5 August 1908, p.2.

<sup>112</sup> *Border Watch*, 26 May 1909, pp.2-3.

Later the same year, on the occasion of the school's annual Visiting Day, he echoed similar thoughts, pointing out that the number of students then on the roll (including the High School) was 540 and 'some of the classes were somewhat overcrowded, and he hoped that before the opening of the next year more accommodation would be provided.' During the parents' inspection of the school they were shown a 'little nook, screened off from the infants' classroom' which was being used by the high school teacher Mr Hosking as a chemical laboratory, quite clearly a less than satisfactory arrangement.<sup>113</sup>

In his first annual report of the Mount Gambier District High School at the end of 1909 Mr Hosking stated:

For the quarter ending September last year the number in attendance was 26, and the average attendance was 18.2. The number who have attended during the present quarter is 52, while the average attendance for the last two months is 45. Of the students at present in attendance one comes from Kingston, one from near Narracoorte, one from Millicent, three from Sutton Town, one from O.B. Flat, and one from Yahl Paddock. The remainder are local. Since the school was opened three years ago the names of 127 students have been entered on the school register.<sup>114</sup>

Hosking went on to mention the issue of overcrowding but was quick to point out that £2,500 had been passed by parliament to erect an up-to-date building in future which would be 'thoroughly equipped in every respect'. He drew attention to developments in state secondary education in other countries such as Britain, America and Germany and stressed that a beginning had been made to make similar changes in South Australia. Accordingly the provision of suitable buildings was essential for these improvements so 'Mount Gambier must consider itself fortunate in the prospect of being one of the first towns in the State to have such a school building.' He then went on to announce the prize winners and acknowledge the support he had received from Miss Dorothy Goodfellow.<sup>115</sup>

By the time Mr Hosking presented the second annual report twelve months later the number of scholars had risen to 74. At the start of 1910 it had been necessary to move into the Sons of Temperance Hall. Some modifications had been made to the curriculum being offered to cater for students whose parents did not intend for them to continue to university courses:

Hence General Divisions have been established. In the general classes Latin, Euclid, and algebra are omitted, and additional geography, drawing, history, and literature are instituted; also civics. In the second year general class book-keeping, business correspondence, and typewriting are taught.<sup>116</sup>

The government grant for the new building promised had been increased to £3,500 and plans were being prepared for it.

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<sup>113</sup> *Border Watch*, 1 September 1909, p.3.

<sup>114</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 December 1909, p.1.

<sup>115</sup> Dorothy Mary Magdalene Goodfellow (born 17 September 1883) was a provisional assistant teacher at the Mount Gambier Public School from September 1909, and continued in that role at Mount Gambier District High School in 1910. Early in 1911 she was offered a transfer to a primary school for disciplinary reasons. She was dismissed on 12 April 1911.

<sup>116</sup> *Border Watch*, 24 December 1910, p.4.

As a follow-up to the government's announcement that money had been set aside for the new high school, the South Australian Director of Education, Mr Alfred Williams, visited Mount Gambier in March 1910. Williams was a strong advocate of the 'New Education' movement and believed that schools should give bright children access to a university education, regardless of their social background.<sup>117</sup> The *Border Watch* reported that he had 'selected a site for the new building at the south-eastern corner of the public school ground, facing Helen-street', so that it could be open for the commencement of the 1911 school year. The School of Mines, which used the Institute to run its classes, had been for some years asking for a government grant to help them in the construction of a new purpose-built school. Mr Williams suggested instead that the new high school classrooms be used by the School of Mines for classes during the evening. He pointed out that the new high school at Mount Gambier would offer classes which included cookery, chemistry and carpentry – classes that were currently taught by the local School of Mines, or that they wished to offer.<sup>118</sup>

Alfred Williams had accompanied his Victorian counterpart Frank Tate on an educational fact-finding mission to England, Europe and the United States in 1907.<sup>119</sup> In late 1910 he announced 'The Minister [of Education] may also establish high schools ... The course of study at a high school will embrace all branches of liberal education, including foreign languages, sciences, manual training, and domestic subjects.'<sup>120</sup> He also announced a number of other reforms to state education in South Australia which included the creation of high school councils, fines of £5 for parents of children who missed half a day or more of schooling without 'reasonable excuse', bringing the management and control of technical education (which included the existing School of Mines operating in Mount Gambier) under the Minister's control, banning denominational religious instruction in public schools and introducing severe penalties for anyone caught abusing teachers.

Overcrowding at Mount Gambier Public School was still a subject of concern in late 1910. On the agenda of the Mount Gambier Board of Health meeting on 7 October, one member said he hoped the new planned high school might ameliorate the problem. It was decided that the Town Council should visit the school and investigate the problem.<sup>121</sup> When the Mount Gambier School Board of Advice met on 22 October the Chairman, John Watson, reported that he had seen the Director of Education who had informed him that 'arrangements were well in hand for making a start with the new High School building at Mount Gambier'.<sup>122</sup> The Town Council's subsequent visit to the Public School resulted in the Town Clerk writing to the

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<sup>117</sup> Elizabeth Kwan, 'Williams, Alfred (1863-1913)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.edu.au/biography/williams-alfred-9107/text16059>, published in hardcopy 1990, accessed online 24 October 2014.

<sup>118</sup> *Border Watch*, 12 March 1910, p.2. The School of Mines Council decided as a result to ask for space in the new building for classes in art, agricultural chemistry, blacksmithing, carpentry, cooking, commercial subjects such as shorthand, typing and bookkeeping, elocution, veterinary science and wool classing, and would apply for special rooms for some of these classes.

<sup>119</sup> He addressed a crowd of about 200 interested people during his visit to Mount Gambier in 1908, the details of which were reported in the *Border Watch*, 14 November 1908, p.4.

<sup>120</sup> *Border Watch*, 3 December 1910, p.1.

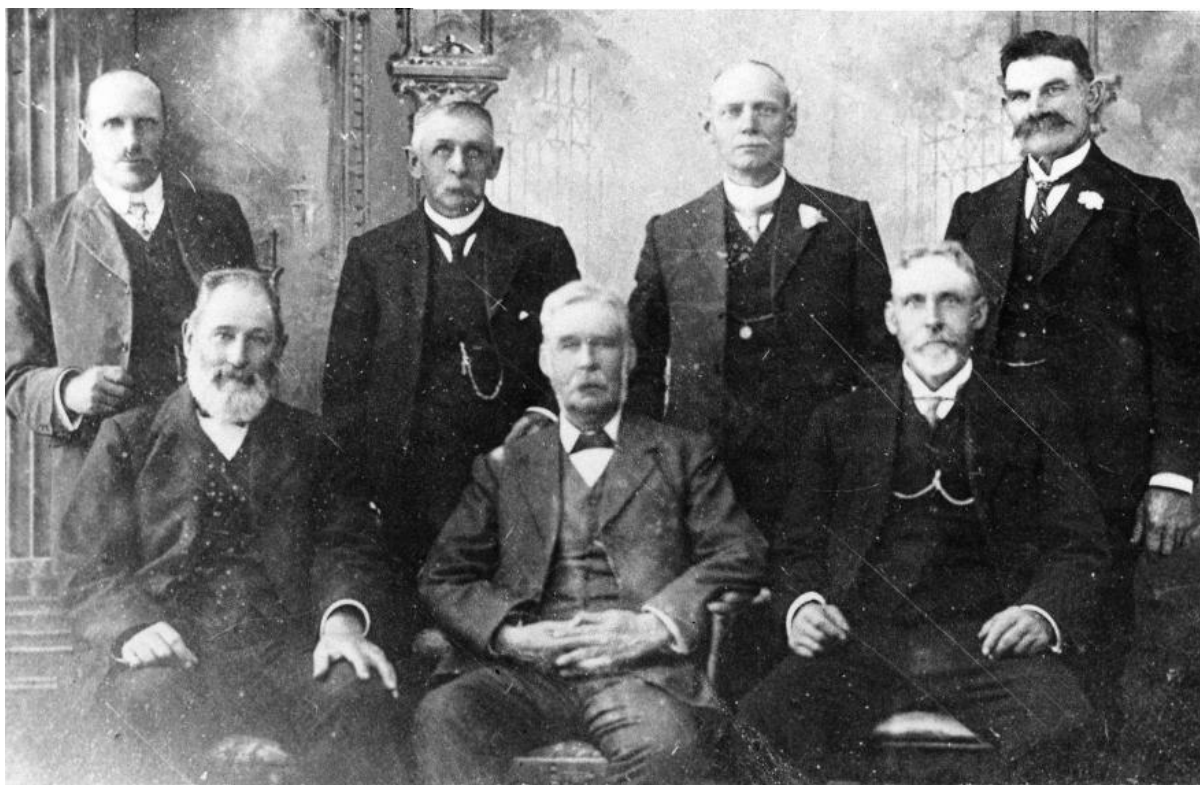
<sup>121</sup> *Border Watch*, 12 October 1910, p.2.

<sup>122</sup> *Border Watch*, 29 October 1910, p.8.

Director of Education requesting plans for the high school be submitted to Council.<sup>123</sup> Late in November it was reported that a reply had been received which stated:

I am directed to say that matters connected with the reconstruction of the public school in your town, and providing accommodation for the high school and technical school have been under consideration for some time. As the Government will probably be called upon to spend nearly £5,000 on the new building it is thought that the people of Mount Gambier should render some assistance towards providing a suitable site. With regard to submitting the plans to your council, such a course is never followed and it is not considered necessary.<sup>124</sup>

Councillor Spehr stated that Donald Campbell (member for the South Australian state electorate of Victoria and Albert which included Mount Gambier<sup>125</sup>) had recently visited and had indicated that the Department would like recommendations for the site of the new high school, which would be quite separate from the existing public school. This would not, of course, solve existing problems of overcrowding in the primary school.<sup>126</sup>



**Members of Board of Mount Gambier and District Schools Committee 1913. George Henry Kilsby, A.C. Davis, W. Wilson, E. Earle, John Faull Palamountain, John Watson, Christopher John White. (Les Hill Collection)**

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<sup>123</sup> *Border Watch*, 9 November 1910, p.4.

<sup>124</sup> *Border Watch*, 23 November 1910, p.3.

<sup>125</sup> R.M. Gibbs, 'Campbell, Donald (1866-1945)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/campbell-donald-5484/text9325>, published in hardcopy 1979, accessed online 24 October 2014.

<sup>126</sup> *Border Watch*, 23 November 1910, p.3.

George V became king in 1911 and a school demonstration to celebrate Coronation Day was held on the Mount Gambier Public School's grounds on Thursday 22 June was attended by about 900 students from the town and surrounding districts, including about 500 from the Mount Gambier Public School and 44 from the high school.<sup>127</sup> In August, the town was visited by the Minister of Education, Frederick William Coneybeer, and the Acting Director of Education, Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Hillary Neale<sup>128</sup>. They visited many local schools, including the Mount Gambier Public School on the morning of Monday 21 August, where they were met with a party that included the Chairman of the School Board of Advice, John Watson, the representative for the seat of Victoria and Albert in the South Australian House of Assembly, William Senior, and the school's head teacher, Theodor Silas Bosch<sup>129</sup>. After an inspection of the school they also visited the high school.<sup>130</sup> On Tuesday morning Coneybeer and Neale met a deputation at the Town Hall where overcrowding at the Public School was the subject of a lively discussion.<sup>131</sup>

Other mentions of the Mount Gambier High School in the *Border Watch* in 1911 include a reference to the purchase of a 'splendid lantern, worked by acetylene gas', curtains 'to darken the room', and a set of slides for use of teachers<sup>132</sup>, and the publication of two winning essays from the Mount Gambier Show.<sup>133</sup>

In 1910 the South Australian Government conducted a Royal Commission into the University of Adelaide which developed into a Royal Commission into all aspects of education, running from 1911 to 1913. In April 1912, Victor John Pavia,<sup>134</sup> president of the Teachers' Union and headmaster of Norwood Public School, told the commissioners that, in his view, high schools should not be controlled by the head teacher of the public school if their enrolment was over 100 and they were staffed with four assistant teachers.<sup>135</sup> In November 1912 the commissioners, Thomas Ryan (chairman), Archibald Henry Peake, Alfred William Styles, Frederick William Coneybeer, Thompson Green, and Alexander McDonald, visited Mount Gambier. During their visit to the high school classes in the Sons of Temperance building, John Watson, chairman of the School Board of Advice stated that 'he hoped the school would soon be accommodated in a new building. The money for this was in the Treasury, and they had a

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<sup>127</sup> *Border Watch*, 24 June 1911, p.2.

<sup>128</sup> Neale had been a teacher at Mount Gambier between 1889 and 1892, during which time he had been in charge of the local military volunteer force. His obituary published in the (Adelaide) *Advertiser*, 11 January 1915, p.6, outlines the career of this fascinating man.

<sup>129</sup> Bosch (born 30 June 1865) was head teacher of Mount Gambier Public School from 28 June 1908 till 31 March 1912 when he was transferred to Brompton. He retired in January 1931.

<sup>130</sup> *Border Watch*, 23 August 1911, p.3.

<sup>131</sup> *Border Watch*, 23 August 1911, p.2.

<sup>132</sup> *Border Watch*, 15 November 1911, p.2.

<sup>133</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 December 1911, p.4. The essays were 'The Jubilee Show' by Mary Mackie, and 'The Benefits of the Jubilee Show' by Gilbert Poole. They were both students of Mount Gambier High School.

<sup>134</sup> His obituary, published in the (Adelaide) *Chronicle*, 1 January 1927, p.31, stated that he had been in charge of the Mount Gambier school earlier in his career.

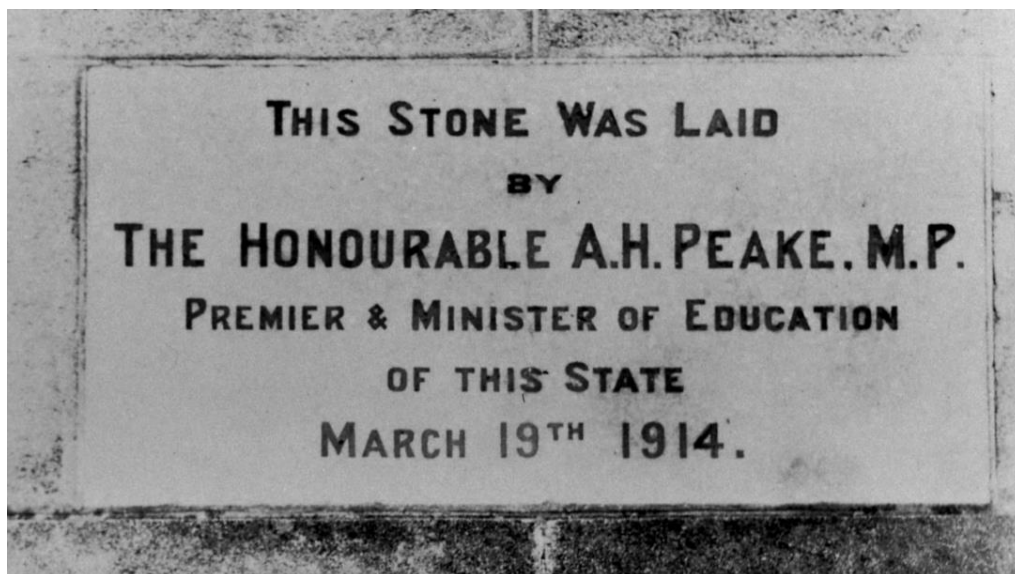
<sup>135</sup> *Register*, 4 April 1912, p.10.

block of land for the building.<sup>136</sup> About the same time a new badge was adopted for the high school. 'It is of white metal and blue enamel, and bears the motto, "Nihil absque labore".'<sup>137</sup>

Early in 1914 the *Border Watch* reported that tenders for the high school had been accepted and Mr A.E. Knight had been the successful tenderer. The school of nine rooms would be constructed of white sandstone and was to be erected in the Brewery Paddock, facing Commercial Street.<sup>138</sup>

The foundation stone was officially laid by the Premier and Minister for Education, Archibald Henry Peake, on 19 March 1914. Other members of the official party present were the Commissioner of Public Works (Sir Richard Butler), the Director of Education (Mr Milton Moss Maughan), the Superintendent of Public Buildings (Mr Charles Edward Owen Smyth), Mr John Cowan (MLC), Sir John Lancelot Stirling (MLC), Mr George Bodey (Member of Victoria and Albert in the South Australian parliament), and Mr John Livingston (Member for Barker in the federal parliament). The Mount Gambier School Board of Advice was represented by Mr John Watson.

The resultant new high school building was not officially opened until 18 January 1915. In the intervening period the nation had gone to war and the first soldiers of the newly formed Australian Imperial Force had left Australia, bound for Egypt.



***Foundation stone of Mount Gambier High School, 1914. (Les Hill Collection)***

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<sup>136</sup> *Border Watch*, 16 November 1912, p.3.

<sup>137</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 November 1912, p.1.

<sup>138</sup> *Border Watch*, 7 January 1914, p.2.



*Mount Gambier High School, Commercial Street, 1915. (Les Hill Collection)*



*Mount Gambier High School, Commercial Street, 1926. (Les Hill Collection)*

## **SCHOOLS AT WAR**

Support for empire was high on the agenda of education bodies, public and private, and the war would test the ingenuity of local schools in raising money for what was then seen as a just war. Many believed that if Britain was defeated, Australia would become a part of a worldwide German empire, and that could not be allowed to happen. No sacrifice was seen as too great to ensure victory.

If anyone doubts the extent to which local schools educated their students in what was perceived as their patriotic duty, they need only read the winning essays published in the *Border Watch* in response to a competition announced by the Mount Gambier Public School

Board of Advice during the 1913 Empire Day celebrations at the school.<sup>139</sup> The winning Fourth Class entry, written by May Walter, details the day's events through her eyes:

The public school celebrated Empire Day on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, in memory of Queen Victoria's birthday. During the morning our lessons dealt with Empire building. At 10 o'clock the visitors arrived, and inspected our work. Later, we were dismissed for recess, and when the bell rang, we formed our lines, and marched into the boys' yard, where the saluting of the flag took place. We then marched back to our rooms again. Then the third, fourth, fifth and High School assembled in the north room, that is, the room on the north side. When the three classes were seated, the fifth class did some acting entitled "Children of the Empire." They were formed in a half circle round Britannia. A rose, the emblem of England, was represented by one girl, and the kilt, representing Scotland, by another. The shamrock, the emblem of Ireland, was represented by a third. Then came six others representing Canada. They held branches of pine, decorated with small pieces of wadding, to imitate snow. Then came Australia, that were some girls dressed as wool and wheat, and last of all came South Africa. This play was a great success. The fourth and fifth then sang a song, called "Annie Laurie." Speeches were then delivered by members of the Board of Advice and ministers of the town. We were then granted a half-holiday, which was received with much cheering.<sup>140</sup>

There is little reference to the war in the Mount Gambier Public School Journal's record of the day-to-day events of the school during 1914. To some extent this mirrors the initial response of the community at large. After the enthusiastic response that had resulted from the outbreak of war and the ensuing 'rush to enlist' which prompted a spate of farewells, communities returned to the cares of their everyday lives, perhaps assuming that the war would be over by Christmas.

## 1915

Domestic events remained the major focus of newspaper reports, calls for volunteers and reports of the departure of locals being the only reminder to locals that there was a war being fought in Europe, though profits from St Patrick's Day celebrations had been set aside for the Belgian Fund,<sup>141</sup> as were funds raised as a result of a motor carnival the following week.<sup>142</sup>

Public schools began the school year on Monday 18 January 1915, Mount Gambier Public School with about 500 primary students, and the high school with about 60 students. The primary school classrooms had been upgraded with better lighting, new dual desks, and two new hat and cloak rooms, though these improvements were not quite complete when children returned from holidays. The high school students 'took possession of two class rooms in the new High School building'. Fencing around the new school had begun and the appointment of a teacher of cookery was planned for later in the year.<sup>143</sup> Mr Thomas H.S.

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<sup>139</sup> *Border Watch*, 28 May 1913, p.1; 25 June 1913, p.3.

<sup>140</sup> *Border Watch*, 28 June 1913, p.4.

<sup>141</sup> *Border Watch*, 20 March 1915, p.4.

<sup>142</sup> *Border Watch*, 27 March 1915, p.1.

<sup>143</sup> *Border Watch*, 20 January 1915, p.2.

Nicolle was transferred from Petersburg (later renamed Peterborough) as head teacher of the Public School in April.

The outpouring of national pride that followed reports of the Gallipoli landings and the casualties suffered set the tone for the annual celebration of Empire Day at Mount Gambier Public School. Guests were welcomed by the head teacher Mr Nicolle at 10.30am who took them on a tour of the classrooms. They were entertained by the students with patriotic songs and recitations. Classes were then assembled in the playground where they listened to speeches by the chairman of the School Board, Mr John Faull Palamountain, local clergymen Cully, Matschoss, Campbell, Potts, Samwell and local military representatives Colonels Daniel and Howland, after which patriotic songs were sung, the oath of allegiance taken, the flag saluted, and the National Anthem sung. Students were then dismissed for a half-day holiday.<sup>144</sup>

Local communities began to mobilise in support of their men, and schools played a part in the nation-wide demonstrations to be held on Friday 30 July, 'with the object of raising funds for the assistance of our soldiers at the war front, those who may be invalided, and those dependent upon them'.<sup>145</sup> A procession to begin at 1pm was to be followed by a carnival of novelty events at the showground, the day finishing with a picture show in Star Pictures' theatre and a concert in the new Institute Hall. Anticipating the involvement of other district schools in the procession the Mayor had contacted the Director of Education asking for Australia Day to be a full school holiday but his request was initially refused.<sup>146</sup> Presumably this decision was later reversed, because Sutton Town, Compton, Square Mile, Glencoe, O.B. Flat, Yahl, Wandilo, Moorak, Glenburnie, Mil Lel schools all participated along with Mount Gambier Public School and Mount Gambier Convent schools.

The line of school children was ended by the fife band from the Mount Gambier public school. Forty boys dressed in uniform of white with red facings, made a brave showing, and played excellent music, and their bandmaster, Tom Keegan, had reason to be proud of them.<sup>147</sup>

On arrival at the showground, the children marched to the front of the grandstand and joined the crowd in singing the National Anthem, after which members of the official party made speeches that were interspersed by items presented by the children. The Mayor was followed by the children with a rendition of 'Song of Australia'; Colonel Chaplain Archdeacon Samwell was followed by the children singing Kipling's Recessional hymn 'God of our fathers'; Very Reverend Dean Ryan was followed by the children singing 'O God, our help in ages past'; Reverend W.A. Potts was followed by the children singing 'God save our splendid men'. Speakers had been rather long-winded, so the Mayor intervened at this stage and the children dispersed a very belated lunch, the procession having begun at 1pm.<sup>148</sup>

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<sup>144</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 May 1915, p.2.

<sup>145</sup> *Border Watch*, 17 July 1915, p.3.

<sup>146</sup> *Border Watch*, 24 July 1915, pp.2-3.

<sup>147</sup> *Border Watch*, 31 July 1915, pp.2-3.

<sup>148</sup> *ibid.*



***Mount Gambier Public School Fife Band in Commercial Street during the 1915 Australia Day procession. (Les Hill Collection)***

In July 1915 the Mount Gambier School Board discussed a possible memento to the late Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Hillary Neale, who had been a past head teacher of the school and was credited as the founder of the cadet movement in Mount Gambier.<sup>149</sup> Overcrowding was still an issue, despite hopes that the new high school would alleviate the problem, necessitating the use of a shelter shed for the instruction of one of the infant classes.<sup>150</sup> Class IV held a bazaar and raised over £2 towards Red Cross funds. On the anniversary of the declaration of war with Germany (4 August 1915), children were addressed by the head teacher, followed by the saluting of the flag and the singing of the National Anthem. In August the Fifth Class held a bazaar in the boys' shed, raising nearly £9 for war funds. 'The fifth class has presented to the Keswick Military Hospital 6 lounges and one carrying chair. Each lounge or chair bears the following inscription – "Presented by the Fifth Class, Mt. Gambier Public School for soldiers of the Empire. We are so proud of you."<sup>151</sup> The school also contributed to war efforts through their participation on other significant days such as Arbor Day (in August), Wattle Day (also in August), French Flag Day (in September), and Belgian Fund Day (October).

Arbor Day was celebrated in connection with the Mount Gambier High School on Friday last [13 August]. At 11.30am the fourth and fifth classes from the public school, headed by the drum and fife band, marched to the High School grounds, and there co-

<sup>149</sup> Neale had been at Mount Gambier Public School from 1889 to 1892. He had also been in charge of the Mount Gambier (Military) Company during those years. His role in education and the military had resulted in him being appointed Officer Commanding of the Commonwealth Cadets in South Australia and at the time of his death he was Chief Inspector of Schools in South Australia. *Advertiser*, 11 January 1915, p.6.

<sup>150</sup> *Border Watch*, 28 July 1915, p.1.

<sup>151</sup> Mount Gambier Public School Journal.

operated with the High School students in the planting of 30 white poplar and pepper trees. The actual planting was entrusted to those children who had relatives at the front or training to proceed there. The other children assisted in the planting of a hedge. The work concluded and the children observed the ceremony of saluting the flag, and sang the National Anthem before dispersing.<sup>152</sup>

In August some local schools were involved in supporting the efforts of the Wattle Day League taking 'street collections, selling wattle (artificial as well as natural) flowers, Wattle Day souvenirs, buttons, and badges, the proceeds of which would be devoted to the purchase of motor ambulances' for the war. Mr H.C. Hosking (Mount Gambier High School), Mr J. Carozzi (Mount Gambier Grammar School), Mr A.A. Haddy (Sutton Town Public School) assisted Mr Rook to pick wattle blossom on Saturday morning for sale later in the day. Students sold sprigs of wattle for a silver coin donation and badges for sixpence. The public school drum and fife band of 42 players in their white and scarlet uniforms marched along Commercial Street at about 2.30pm and set themselves up 'in the Commercial Club balcony opposite the Town Hall where they played a programme of popular airs', attracting a large crowd which sellers successfully worked.<sup>153</sup> £65 was raised on the day which was passed on to the Red Cross.<sup>154</sup>

Students similarly supported French Flag Day on behalf of the French Red Cross as sellers of badges, buttons and small flags, held in Mount Gambier on Saturday 18 September 1915. The school drum and fife band marched from the school along Commercial Street and set up in the Commercial Club gallery opposite the Town Hall where they continued to entertain the crowd assembled. Over £85 was raised.<sup>155</sup> Belgian Week Fund, held in the town in October, was 'helped very considerably by the gifts of school children.'<sup>156</sup>

Schools broke up for the Christmas vacation on 10 December 1915 but a Patriotic School Fair 'in aid of the Keswick Hospital for returned wounded soldiers' was held on Wednesday afternoon, 15 December 1915, in the high school buildings. Stalls were run by the students of the Mount Gambier primary and high schools. Head Teacher, Mr Thomas Hellier Sarre Nicolle, in introducing the Mayor, Mr Renfrey, explained that the fair was in answer to an appeal made through *The Children's Hour*<sup>157</sup> that the schools of South Australia do something to help furnish the Keswick Hospital. He then went on and explained that the existing boards of advice would be replaced by individual school committees, one for each school, and thanked the community for the support he had received while in Mount Gambier.

In response, the Mayor thanked Mr Nicolle, stating that he wished his stay in Mount Gambier had been a happier one, reminded those present of the worthiness of the cause and declared the fair open. Mr Nicolle called for cheers for the King, the Mayor called for cheers for the soldiers at the front and the school band played the National Anthem. The fair closed at 6pm. Takings amounted to £35, of which £25 would be sent to the Keswick Hospital Fund and the

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<sup>152</sup> *Border Watch*, 18 August 1915, p.2.

<sup>153</sup> *Border Watch*, 1 September 1915, p.2.

<sup>154</sup> *Border Watch*, 17 November 1915, p.3.

<sup>155</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 September 1915, p.3.

<sup>156</sup> Mount Gambier Public School Journal.

<sup>157</sup> A magazine produced by the SA Education Department and given to primary school children

rest used for improvements at the primary and high schools. This brought the total raised by the school 'for patriotic purposes and charitable purposes' to over £88.<sup>158</sup>

The year had been a tragic one for Mr Nicolle. His father died on 6 June<sup>159</sup> necessitating his absence from 8-11 June 1915.<sup>160</sup> He resumed duty on 14 June. Then his wife died on 20 September after a long illness,<sup>161</sup> necessitating further absences from 15 to 17 and 20 to 23 September,<sup>162</sup> the latter period coinciding with the annual detailed inspection of the primary and high schools by Inspectors Pavia and Fairweather. In October it was announced that Mr Nicolle had been promoted to the role of an inspector and so would be leaving.<sup>163</sup> The Mount Gambier High School Journal also recorded the deaths on 8 July 1915 of Myra Storey of Class IIIB after a short illness and on 1 September 1915 of Andrew Smith of Class IIIA, a member of the school band, of diphtheria. Mr Nicolle was officially farewelled in October, after being promoted to the role of inspector.<sup>164</sup>

On a less serious note, a number of hockey matches were played by the high school girls against the Mount Gambier Ladies' Hockey Club. On Wednesday 23 June the high school girls defeated the Mount Gambier Ladies 1-0 on the high school grounds.<sup>165</sup> A match played on the showgrounds on Wednesday 14 July was drawn 0-0.<sup>166</sup> The final match, played on the high school grounds on Wednesday 18 August resulted in another 1-0 win to the girls from the high school.<sup>167</sup>

In September 1915 the New Education Bill extended the ages of compulsory schooling from 7-13 to 6-14.<sup>168</sup>

## 1916

The 1916 Mount Gambier Public School year commenced on Monday 17 January 1916 under new head teacher, Mr William Henry Hand, who had transferred from Moonta. Mr Hosking continued on at the high school, who remained subordinate to Mr Hand. Chairman of the local Board of Advice, J.F. Palamountain, arranged for board members to meet the new head teacher and his new assistants on that day. They also visited the High School where they were met by Mr Hosking and his assistants.<sup>169</sup> Later it was announced that the Education Department had made arrangements to open a Domestic Economy and Cooking Centre at the high schools at Narracoorte and Mount Gambier and Miss Nora K. Needham had been

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<sup>158</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 December 1915, p.1.

<sup>159</sup> *Kapunda Herald*, 11 June 1915, p.2.

<sup>160</sup> Mount Gambier Public School Journal.

<sup>161</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 September 1915, p.2.

<sup>162</sup> Mount Gambier Public School Journal.

<sup>163</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 October 1915, p.2.

<sup>164</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 October 1915, p.2.

<sup>165</sup> *Border Watch*, 26 June 1915, p.3

<sup>166</sup> *Border Watch*, 17 July 1915, p.1.

<sup>167</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 August 1915, p.2.

<sup>168</sup> *Border Watch*, 15 September 1915, p.1.

<sup>169</sup> *Border Watch*, 19 January 1916, p.2.

appointed to run the centre. It was planned that she would work three days a week at Mount Gambier and two days a week at Narracoorte and would take up her appointment soon.<sup>170</sup>

As mentioned previously, while many adult sporting competitions went into recess for the duration of the war, school sports continued. The Mount Gambier High School football team played Mount Gambier Grammar School at Vansittart Park on Saturday 8 April 1916, defeating their opponents 5.16 to 1.0.<sup>171</sup> A second game between the two sides, also played at Vansittart Park on Saturday 15 April produced a similar result, High School 6.11 to Grammar School 0.2.<sup>172</sup> On Monday 5 June a side representing the Mount Gambier Boys Institute defeated a combined Mount Gambier High School and Mount Gambier Grammar School 3.6 to 1.7.<sup>173</sup>

Narracoorte High School travelled by train to Mount Gambier on Saturday 5 August for competition against Mount Gambier High School. It had originally been intended for the boys to play football and the girls to play hockey, but in the end Narracoorte was not able to bring a hockey team. The football match took place at Vansittart Park at 2pm, when Narracoorte beat Mount Gambier 3.3 to 1.2. After the match, players went back to Mount Gambier High School for an afternoon tea arranged by the Mount Gambier High School girls. Remarks were made about the high cost of transport – players had to pay 8 shillings for the train fare.<sup>174</sup>

A high school social was held in the Temperance Hall in April. ‘The programme was comprised of two dialogues, one by girls and the other by the boys’, made up of songs, recitations and a violin solo. On this occasion:

A roll of honor, which was read out, contained the names of 27 old members of the High School, including two teachers. The hall was artistically decorated in pink and white, and flags of the Allies, by the girls and boys ... The evening closed with the singing of “Auld Lang Syne” and the National Anthem.<sup>175</sup>

For the sake of convenience for locals, Empire Day was celebrated in Mount Gambier on Friday 26 May, rather than on 24 May as was the case in many other places around Australia. In both public and high schools lessons were based around the theme of empire and empire building, broken up with patriotic songs and recitations. Visitors were welcomed at the high school at 10am where they watched ‘Miss Needham’s pupils in cookery and other lines of domestic art’. The 54 high school students present on that day and the visitors then moved to the primary school where an assembly was planned, centring on the unveiling of a roll of honor of ex-students of the high school who had enlisted for service in the AIF, which would be witnessed by about 580 primary students as well.

It is 12 years ago since Empire Day was first observed. Who will dare to say otherwise than that the great patriotic wave of loyalty and self-sacrifice displayed by our gallant men and brave women owes its origin, and a great deal of its energy to the lessons

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<sup>170</sup> *Border Watch*, 26 January 1916, p.3.

<sup>171</sup> *Border Watch*, 12 April 1916, p.4.

<sup>172</sup> *Border Watch*, 19 April 1916, p.2.

<sup>173</sup> *Border Watch*, 7 June 1916, p.3.

<sup>174</sup> *Border Watch*, 2 August 1916, p.2; 5 August 1916, p.2; 9 August 1916, p.4.

<sup>175</sup> *Border Watch*, 19 April 1916, p.2.

given on past Empire Days? ... On Friday at 11.30 at the Mount Gambier school, there will be unveiled by the Mayor (Mr. G.B. Renfrey) a roll of honor of old students of the High School who enlisted for service abroad. At 12 o'clock the children of the primary and High Schools will salute the flag. A half holiday in the afternoon has been granted by the Minister. Head teacher Mr Hand asked high school teacher Mr Hosking to talk briefly about the boys whose names had been listed.

Mr H.C. Hosking said he found when he came to make up the roll of honor that nearly every boy who had passed through the school and reached the age of eighteen years, had offered his services to the country, and today he could not help feeling very proud of the boys of the school ... Some of the boys had gone to other States, and he had some trouble in finding where they were; but when he did find them out he discovered that they had also enlisted ...



***Visiting Day at Mount Gambier Public School 1916. Mr Hand is addressing the children. (Les Hill Collection)***

Before performing the unveiling the Mayor spoke:

He had been asked to unveil the roll of honor of the noble young heroes of the High School who had volunteered their services for King and country. They were fighting now possibly to save the lives of those who were at Mount Gambier. Possibly some of them had brothers at the front, and some had fathers there, on the other side of the world, engaged in this war. He was sure if the latter knew they were celebrating Empire Day they would feel proud of them ... It reflected great credit on the boys of the High School the noble way in which they had responded to the call of their country. He believed 38 of the pupils of the High School had given their services for the war, and if so, only about 4 or 5 had not enlisted, but they were not slackers, nor did they have cold feet. Their not being in the war was because they were unsuccessful in passing the medical test ...

Then local military representative Colonel Howland spoke. He claimed that between 600 and 700 recruits within 20 miles of Mount Gambier had enlisted to that point. Mr Hand asked for a show of certificates for subscriptions to the Over Seas Club, stating that the students of the primary school had raised £8/10/0 and the students of the high school had raised fifteen shillings, money that would be used to buy comforts such as tobacco and chocolate for the men at the front.

The flag was then hoisted and the children repeated 'I love my country. I love her King. I love her flag, and I promise to obey her laws', the school band played the National Anthem, three cheers were given for the King, and three cheers were given for the boys at the front. Mr Hand asked those who had relatives at the front to raise their hands – over 200 did so. Miss Maloney led the children in singing 'God Bless our Splendid Men'. It was then announced that two prizes were to be offered for an essay on 'What are the lessons of Empire Day?' which was open to boys and girls of both schools. Mr Kilsby, who had offered the prizes, presented a copy of Holman Hunt's famous painting 'The Light of the World' to the school. Three cheers were given for the visitors and the children were dismissed to enjoy a half day holiday.<sup>176</sup>

In May 'a quantity of culinary utensils' including a primus kerosene stove, two saucepans, two plated flatirons and handle valued at one pound ten shillings were stolen from the High School. Acting on information provided by the public, the police searched the Bertha Street home of William Ball, a baker, where they found the goods. At his trial in June he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six years with hard labour.<sup>177</sup>

A patriotic carnival to raise funds for the Soldiers' Convalescent Hospital, Adelaide and the Mount Gambier Wounded Soldiers' Fund was officially opened at Institute Hall on 20 June by Mr J. Livingston, MHR. A number of stalls decorated in red, white and blue, sold a range of goods to raise funds: a produce stall, a flower stall, a sweets stall, a variety stall, a cake stall, a doll stall (which was run by high school students), a jumble stall, a Lilliputian stall, a hoop-la and the "'Our Boys" Universal Stall' (with miscellaneous goods). Musical items and recitations were provided to entertain those in attendance. During the week, money was raised through button sales, a sheep-guessing competition, fortune-telling and a shooting gallery. On the following Friday school children presented action songs, choruses and recitations. Boys were dressed as cadets. It being winter in Mount Gambier the weather was typically wet and cold. Nevertheless, a total of £777/11/3 was raised, and while the efforts of the schools only contributed towards the success of the carnival, they were undeniably an integral part of the community effort.<sup>178</sup>

On 19 July, 14-year-old high school student Frances Rosalind Shakespeare (who had assisted on the Lilliputian stall a month before,) daughter of George Shakespeare, well-known local music teacher and musician, died at the hospital following an appendix operation the previous day.<sup>179</sup>

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<sup>176</sup> *Border Watch*, 27 May 1916, p.2.

<sup>177</sup> *Border Watch*, 31 May 1916, p.2; 10 June 1916, p.2; 27 September 1916, p.4.

<sup>178</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 June 1916, p.3; 28 June 1916, p.2.

<sup>179</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 July 1916, p.2.

At a meeting in July the Australia Day planning committee listened to feedback from Mr Hand representing teachers who had previously met to discuss the involvement of students on the day. His suggestions were that students should not be forced to remain in their lines for so long after having been in the procession (speeches the previous year had gone on far too long), that students should be lined up on entering the showground so that they could see the rest of the procession, that the procession was too long for the youngest students and any under 9 years of age should be taken straight to the showground, and finally that arrangements for feeding the children needed to be improved upon. These criticism brought a quite defensive response from other committee members, clearly upset that there had been any disquiet regarding their efforts the previous year. Some discussion also arose about instituting an Australia Day Queen competition, though it was generally agreed that it was too late to get arrangements under way in time for Australia Day.<sup>180</sup> (This competition was eventually held in November, raising over £1,350.<sup>181</sup>)



***Mount Gambier Public School Fife Band in Helen Street during the 1916 Australia Day procession. (Les Hill Collection)***

The second Australia Day in Mount Gambier was held on Friday 28 July 1916. The weather was uncharacteristically fine for Mount Gambier at that time of year, though the previous day had been wet and it was 'damp underfoot'. The general arrangements followed that of the previous year, a procession followed by speeches and sports at the showground and a range of other fundraising activities. It was assumed by organisers that their efforts would not produce the £2,000 that the 1915 Australia Day had produced as a result of the 'many calls that have been made on the resources of the people since'. The procession travelled west along Commercial Street, south along Wehl Street, east along Helen Street, south along Bay Road and entered the showground via the O'Halloran Terrace gate. About a thousand school

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<sup>180</sup> *Border Watch*, 26 July 1916, p.2.

<sup>181</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 November 1916, p.3.

children from Mount Gambier Public and High School, Glencoe Public School, Tarqua Provisional School, Moorak Public School, Compton Downs Public School, Sutton Town Public School, Square Mile Public School, Burrungull Public School, Mil Lel Provisional School, Yahl Public School, Worrolong School, Wandilo School and the Convent School were involved in the early stages of the procession.<sup>182</sup> Schools also contributed to the eventual sum raised through collections taken up.<sup>183</sup> In the evening concerts and picture entertainments were provided in the Institute Hall and the Picture Hall next door.<sup>184</sup>

Friday 25 August 1916 was Violet Day in Adelaide and most South Australian country towns. The stated purpose of Violet Day was to raise funds to assist the Cheer-up Society and to commemorate the sacrifice of soldiers at the front. The Mount Gambier Public School Journal records that 25 August 1916 was celebrated as Violet Day at the school:

Children decorated rooms with violets. At midday hymns sung in each room – ‘Lead kindly light’, ‘Oh God, our help in ages past’, etc. Head teacher visited each room, delivered a short address in memoriam of the brave who had died at the front. Flag half-mast.

Local authorities decided instead that for the town, Saturday was a better choice of day ‘because there is always a larger number of people in the town on that day than any other day of the week’. To help raise funds people were invited to wear violets to mark the occasion. Violets, badges and buttons could, of course, be purchased from volunteers on the streets. The school was involved in the Saturday activities as well. Its band paraded the streets and provided entertainment during afternoon tea, playing ‘patriotic airs’, and the head teacher was one of a number of prominent locals invited by the Mayor to make a speech in front of a crowd assembled at the Town Hall. Community efforts raised £43/7/9.<sup>185</sup>

Violet Day was followed a month later on Saturday 16 September by Wattle Day, with funds raised to be devoted to the Ambulance Fund (for purchase of motor ambulances to be used overseas for the benefit of Australian soldiers). Mount Gambier school band played in the Cave Reserve during the afternoon.<sup>186</sup> Wattle Day had been first celebrated in September 1910 in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia and originally had no connection with military purposes, but like many other special dates, their original purposes were subsumed by the demands of the war. This was not, however, to be the fate of Arbor Day, a spring date set aside to encourage people to plant and care for trees. Thursday 21 September was also declared an arbor day and the school was given eucalyptus and ornamental trees and shrubs for planting but it was a wet day. School drum and fife band entertained visitors by playing ‘lively airs’ on the school verandah. After speeches the girls gave a demonstration of the use of the facilities while the boys planted about 70 trees and shrubs on the western and southern borders of the school ground.<sup>187</sup>

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<sup>182</sup> *Border Watch*, 29 July 1916, p.3.

<sup>183</sup> *Border Watch*, 2 August 1916, p.3.

<sup>184</sup> *Border Watch*, 29 July 1916, p.3.

<sup>185</sup> *Border Watch*, 26 August 1916, p.2; 30 August 1916, p.2;

<sup>186</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 September 1916, p.2; 20 September 1916, p.3.

<sup>187</sup> *Border Watch*, 23 September 1916, p.3.

The School Journal entries give no indication of the pressure young male teachers would have felt to enlist. All it tells is:

**29 August 1916** Mr Edlington volunteered for the front today. He was medically examined and pronounced fit. To report to Adelaide in 2 weeks. I reported to Director.

**6 September 1916** Mr Edlington entertained by teachers at afternoon tea, presented with auto-strop razor by teachers, money belt by Grade IV, socks by girls.

**8 September 1916** Mr Edlington visited school to say farewell – left by train in the evening for camp.

It also provides no hint as to how individuals handled their personal grief at the loss of a close family member:

**12 September 1916** Miss Beauchamp absent – ‘brother killed at the front’.

Was one day enough to cope with the emotions she must have experienced?

From time to time the *Border Watch* published writings by school students. In May Mr Kilsby had presented a copy of Holman Hunt’s painting ‘The Light of the World’ to the school and as a follow-up the Reverend J.H. Nield had delivered an address to students on the kind face in the picture. In August the newspaper had published responses from Lexley Ball, Bert Trevorrow, Jack Dunning and Marie Gooch, and in its 13 September issue, it published an essay ‘by a Mount Gambier High School Boy’ entitled ‘Germany’s Initial Mistakes’.<sup>188</sup>

The school contributed to war funds in ways that did not make the local press. The School Journal’s entry for 9 October 1916 says: ‘Public concert by school raised £22 – devoted to Trench Comfort Funds for boys at the front. The Red Cross Girls had sent 2,000 cakes from Mt Gambier – teachers had contributed.’ Then on 19 October 1916: ‘Show. Prize money remitted for patriotic purposes.’



***Mount Gambier High School Cooking Class 1916. (Les Hill Collection)***

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<sup>188</sup> *Border Watch*, 16 August 1916, p.3; 13 September 1916, p.3.

The High School's Domestic Art Centre was officially opened on Thursday 21 September. The official party included Miss Devitt, the Domestic Art Organiser for the South Australian Education Department, who had travelled from Adelaide for the occasion.<sup>189</sup>

From Monday 2 to Friday 6 October 1916, teachers from all over the South East met in the Mount Gambier School building for the Teachers' Spring School. Sessions were run on elocution, teaching of literature, Montessori principles and practice, class management of a rural school, musical education and choirs, and nature study by experts in these fields. Trips to Dingley Dell and the rabbit preserving factory at Compton were included in the program.<sup>190</sup>

In early December the *Border Watch* advertised the coming 'children's patriotic fete' to raise money for the Repatriation Fund to be held in the new Institute Hall on Thursday 7 December involving school children from Mount Gambier (Public and High), Penola, Monbullia, Coonawarra, Glencoe, Wandilo, Tarpeena, Kongorong, Summer Hill, Caroline, Burrungull, Mil Lel, O.B. Flat, Worrolong, Sutton Town, Compton Downs, Moorak, Yahl Paddock, Glenburnie, Mount Schanck and Port MacDonnell.

During the last few weeks the children and teachers have spent a good share of their time in preparing for the event. The girls have spent their time at sewing and knitting, while the boys have been engaged in other ways, such as making swings and other wooden articles. All the stalls will be managed by the children of the primary school, while the High school girls will manage the afternoon tea and supper. The High school boys will be in charge of the ticket office, and will also be door-keepers. A concert will take place between 8 and 9 o'clock ...

All the schools had previously held concerts to raise money to stock their stalls. The Mount Gambier Public School band marched through the streets to advertise the event. At about 2pm, Mr W.H. Hand introduced the Mayor, Mr G.B. Renfrey, who made a speech, pointing out that what was happening locally was also happening at other centres around the state. He then declared the fete open and called for three cheers for the King and the boys at the front. Efforts on the days raised over a hundred pounds.<sup>191</sup>

## 1917

The school year began on Monday 22 January 1917 and by the end of the first week there were 720 students enrolled in primary classes. Overcrowding in the primary school had not been alleviated by the building of the high school and so 80 children and their two teachers had to use the Sons of Temperance Hall (as the high school had previously). The high school had 75 enrolled by the end of that week, 44 had enrolled during the week, 20 had come from other schools: 3 from Robe, 5 from Square Mile, 2 from Compton, 2 from Glenburnie, 2 from Moorak, 2 from Yahl, 1 from O.B. Flat, 1 from Rendelsham, 1 from Mil Lel and 1 from Tarpeena. The two Mount Gambier schools combined had a staff of 19 teachers. The High School staff

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<sup>189</sup> *Border Watch*, 23 September 1916, p.3.

<sup>190</sup> *Border Watch*, 11 October 1916, p.1.

<sup>191</sup> *Border Watch*, 6 December 1916, p.2; 9 December 1916, p.2.

was made up of Mr H.C. Hosking, B.A., head teacher; Mrs Hosking, assistant; and Miss Needham, teacher of domestic arts.<sup>192</sup>

The School Journal reported on 31 March 1917 that the school had entered a team in a shooting competition for junior cadets. The 26 June 1917 entry records that the cadets took part in the competition shoot, but their performance was greatly hampered by bad rifles and ammunition.

In early April the school was visited by the touring Young Men's Christian Association Concert Party of Returned Soldiers who were touring the South-East raising funds for the 'work of the [YMCA] on the battle fronts and the Lady Galway Club House [for returned wounded soldiers] at Henley Beach'.<sup>193</sup> The children collected £10/3/0 to contribute. The School Journal mentioned that some educational materials such as paper for modelling and books for drawing were now unprocurable, an indication that some everyday goods were in short supply as the country adapted to wartime needs.

On 25 April 1917, Anzac Day commemorations were held in Mount Gambier. It was a Wednesday and community commemoration involving a crowd of about 700 people was held at Cave Gardens starting at 3pm.<sup>194</sup> All public school children assembled at 11.15am. The band played patriotic airs while everyone took their places, the head teacher addressed the assembled children, the flag was hoisted and saluted, the National Anthem played and sung, followed by 'Australia'. In classrooms, teachers imparted relevant subject matter to their students.

On 3 May 1917 the school underwent inspection regarding the degree to which it was meeting its expectations regarding the Universal Service Scheme. Lieutenant Flight visited school and addressed the teachers at 11am. At 11.20 he inspected drill and afterward congratulated the school on its efficiency.

As a matter of convenience, Friday 25 May 1917 was celebrated as Empire Day, instead of Thursday 24 May. At the high school, female students spent the morning preparing morning tea for the 20 visitors under the direction of Miss Needham. The rest were given typical Empire Day lessons. At 10.30am, in a classroom dressed with national flags, Mrs C.L. Spehr, Secretary of the Mount Gambier School Committee, presented Qualifying Certificates to the 39 students who had graduated from the Primary School at the end of last year. The classroom chosen for the ceremony was dressed with national flags. After morning tea the staff, students and visitors went to the primary school, where the demonstration was planned to begin at 11.30.

Here, they were greeted by the school band of about 30 members, playing 'patriotic airs' in the yard. The Mayor, Mr Renfrey, made a speech in front of some 50 guests and the assembled students. The headmaster, Mr Hand, presented the mayor with £4/8/- on behalf of the students to go to the Trench Comforts Fund. The band played "Australia Will Be There",

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<sup>192</sup> *Border Watch*, 27 January 1917, p.2.

<sup>193</sup> *Border Watch*, 11 April 1917, p.4 details their performances at Mount Gambier.

<sup>194</sup> *Border Watch*, 28 April 1917, p.6.

the Union Jack was hoisted to the top of the flagpole with the French tricolour below it, the children saluted the flag and repeated "I love my country. I love my King. I love her flag and promise to obey her laws." Then the band played the National Anthem, the "Song of Australia" and "The Marseillaise". Three cheers were given for the King and three for the boys at the front. At this stage a heavy shower of rain disrupted proceedings so the children were taken inside where they entertained the guests in their classrooms with songs such as "Australia will be there", "God bless our soldiers", "Song of Australia", and "Keep the home fires burning". The children were dismissed for the day at about 12.30.<sup>195</sup> The School Journal records that about 1300 children (including those from the local private schools) attended an afternoon picture show of 'Win the War' pictures.

A team of girls from Mount Gambier High School played a team from Narracoorte High School in a hockey match at Narracoorte on Monday 25 June 1917. The match was won by the Narracoorte High School team. A boys' football team from Mount Gambier High School defeated a Narracoorte High School team in Naracoorte 6.9 to 1.13.<sup>196</sup>

Schools continued to contribute to the local efforts of other organisations. Members of the Mount Gambier Red Cross Sock Circle had sent 871 pairs of socks from its country branches to Adelaide in the past 6 months, including 32 pairs from the High School.<sup>197</sup>

The planning for Australia Day 1917 renewed the controversy that had arisen the previous year, centring on the issue of feeding the school children. At a meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 4 July, head teacher Mr Hand suggested that the committee should make the same arrangements as had been implemented in 1916. Colonel Frederick Henry John Howland (recruiting officer and RSSILA and honorary secretary for the Advisory Board of the Soldiers' Fund) questioned this notion, pointing out that last year it had cost £17/10/0 to feed the children but that the collection taken by the schools had contributed only £13/4/0. This objection might appear mean-spirited, but Colonel Howland was concerned primarily with looking after the interests of returned soldiers and the suggested arrangements would seem to be costing money rather than raising it. At this meeting a motion proposed by Mr Palamountain that each school master should be required to guarantee the amount required to feed the children of his school was carried.<sup>198</sup> The committee had decided to contribute the profits of Australia Day 1917 to the South Australian Soldiers' Fund, a voluntary one 'raised for the assistance of soldiers' wives and families'.

At a subsequent meeting on Wednesday 18 July the issue once again arose. Mr Hand, who had taken the motion from the previous meeting to a meeting of teachers, reported back to the committee that the teachers had passed their own motion that they thought 'the same provisions should be made for the children this year as last.' He pointed out that the money raised in school collections did not take into account the money the children had spent during the afternoon's proceedings. When Alderman Foote supported Mr Hand's remarks the Mayor, Mr Renfrey, availed himself of the opportunity to defuse the situation by congratulating them

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<sup>195</sup> *Border Watch*, 26 May 1917, p.5.

<sup>196</sup> *Border Watch*, 27 June 1917, p.3.

<sup>197</sup> *Border Watch*, 30 June 1917, p.5.

<sup>198</sup> *Border Watch*, 7 July 1917, p.2.

on being 'hand and foot' on the motion and declaring that he, personally, would accept full responsibility for any loss incurred as a result.<sup>199</sup>

Australia Day was celebrated in Mount Gambier on Friday 27 July 1917. After a very wet morning, the weather fined up and the procession was able to proceed. The unmounted section, which included the school children, left the Town Hall at 1pm, turned south up Bay Road and waited briefly at Helen Street to be joined by the mounted section which moved along Commercial Street, turned south into Wehl Street, and east into Helen Street, then south into Bay Road, where they joined the unmounted section and followed it into the showground. Speeches were dispensed with this year and the sports planned for the afternoon were able to get underway. In the evening a concert was held at the Institute Hall.<sup>200</sup>



***Schools Procession in Commercial Street, Mount Gambier 1917. (Les Hill Collection)***

The Mount Gambier High School Council (to replace the Board of Advice) was appointed in August, made up of Mesdames Helen Renfrey and Emma Spehr, Reverend E.H. Kentish, and Messrs J.L. Heaver, G.H. Kilsby, J.F. Palamountain and W.R. Walter.<sup>201</sup>

In 1917 Arbor Day was celebrated on Friday 17 August and, if the report in the local press was anything to go by, it would seem that again there was no attempt to link it to the war effort:

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<sup>199</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 July 1917, p.2.

<sup>200</sup> *Border Watch*, 28 July 1917, p.5; 1 August 1917, p.2.

<sup>201</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 August 1917, p.2.

Arbor Day was observed at the Mount Gambier Public School and the High School yesterday forenoon. There was no special ceremony observed, the children simply planted a number of trees in their respective school grounds ... To celebrate the tree planting the children were granted a half holiday.<sup>202</sup>

This newspaper report overlooks the following details recorded in the School Journal about the events of the previous day:

**18 August 1917.** *Patriotic Fair. Trench Comforts Fund. Grades 7 & 8. Opened 2.30pm, Saturday, on MGPS grounds. Sweets stall, post office, afternoon tea, fancy stall, flower stall, produce stall, penny dip, hoopla. Most stalls sold out by 4.30. Those present then entertained by maypole – planned for Australia Day but not proceeded with because weather had been unsuitable). 5 may poles: some battalion colours, others with colours of the Allies. Each attended by a queen – a little girl dressed in white. Patriotic airs by school drum and fife band under Capt. Alf Meyer. £17/11/5 raised – about £17 profit.*

This money was forwarded to the Adelaide Trench Comforts Society to be forwarded to England 'for the benefit of soldiers'.<sup>203</sup>

Red Triangle Day, on behalf of the Young Men's Christian Association's Army Department 'to raise money to assist this Christian and patriotic association in its great work among the Empire's soldiers now engaged in the great war'<sup>204</sup> was held on Saturday 1 September was another devoted to raising funds for the war effort. The School Journal records the collection taken on Friday:

**31 August 1917.** *Red Triangle Day. Collection £1/15/2 to local fund.*

**7 September 1917.** *Forwarded Children's Patriotic Fund receipts for £14/4/6 in connection with Red Triangle Day.*

Between 22 and 26 October 1917 a detailed inspection of Mount Gambier Public School was carried out by Inspector V.J. Favia and Inspector W.J. McBride. Favia visited the High School on Thursday 25 October and gave a favourable report, commenting particularly on the domestic art classes. He also made special mention of the roll of honor which recorded the names of 50 past students at the school who had enlisted, 8 of which had made the 'supreme sacrifice'.<sup>205</sup>

In 1917 the South Australian Children's Patriotic Fund introduced War Service medals<sup>206</sup> to recognise the efforts of individual children who raised ten shillings to donate to patriotic funds:

'To gain a medal a child must collect or subscribe 10/- to the Children's Fund, and to gain a bar another 10/-'.<sup>207</sup>

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<sup>202</sup> *Border Watch*, 18 August 1917, p.5.

<sup>203</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 August 1917, p.2.

<sup>204</sup> *Border Watch*, 5 September 1917, p.3.

<sup>205</sup> *Border Watch*, 30 October 1917, p.1.

<sup>206</sup> <http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/content.php?pid=575383&sid=4744416>

<sup>207</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 December 1917, p.6.

The Mount Gambier School journal records the following efforts:

**12 October 1917.** *Jean Houston and Marjorie Anderson received medals from Children's Patriotic Fund – 10/0 each, result of little parties during recent holidays.*

**8 November 1917.** *Rupert Brown (Gr.4) – war medal.*

**12 November 1917.** *£3 forwarded for war medals (John Chambers 10/-, Nancy Leane 10/-, George Huston and bar £1, Hilda Badenoch 10/-, Eric Hill 10/-)*

**19 November 1917.** *Sent £6 to treas., CPF for war medals. £2/10/- high school, £3/10/- primary school. Two boys (John Jeffrey, W. Norman, held a fair – receipts £2), war medal and bar for each.*

**20 November 1917.** *Iris Talbot brought 10/- for war medal. Distribute war books Alex Lock, K. Truman, G. Jones, John Bastard, Sy Comer(?), G. Solomon, David Mitchell – all sold.*

**3 December 1917.** *Forwarded £7/10/- medals for war service.*

**10 December 1917** *War medals Colin Taylor 10/-, Mavis Taylor 10/-, M. Bulling £1 and bar, Nellie Kuhl 10/-, Jasper Jolley 10/-, Colin Watson 10/-.*

Mr Hand, head teacher, summarised the schools' efforts at the Mount Gambier Public School break-up social held at the Sons of Temperance Hall on Monday 17 December 1917: 'There are 43 war medallists in the two schools, and eight of them have bars.'

A patriotic fair was held on Friday 15 November 1917 at the high school in aid of the South Australian Children's Patriotic Fund. It had rained in the morning but the afternoon was fine. There were goods stalls selling needlework, sweets, produce, cake, bran pie and hoop-la in the play shed of the school, drinks on the verandah of the school house, strawberries and cream in the tea-room, and afternoon tea in an adjacent room. It was declared open at 3pm by the Mayor, Mr Renfrey. A Queen of the School competition had been run and won by Kitty Spehr. A game of 'tailing the pig' provided extra entertainment during the afternoon.<sup>208</sup> The School journal records: *66 adults paid for admission £30/5/2.* During the break-up social at the Sons of Temperance Hall on Monday 17 December 1917, Mr Hand stated 'the receipts from the Primary school to be £121/15/-, and from the High school £74/10/-; total £196 ... The funds from the fair will be donated to the various patriotic funds, but chiefly to the Trench Comforts Fund and the Red Cross'.<sup>209</sup>

## 1918

Though not often mentioned in news reports during the war, physical drills and cadets continued to be a part of the regular routine. School journal entries such as the following are therefore an exception and only associated with visitors from outside the school:

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<sup>208</sup> *Border Watch*, 16 November 1917, p.5.

<sup>209</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 December 1917, p.6.

**7 February 1918.** Brig[adier] Gen[eral] Forsyth<sup>210</sup> visited school. Addressed children after they had 'saluted flag' – congratulated children on 'steadiness on parade', he was much interested in 'war medals' and those with relatives at the Front.

**18 May 1918.** Visit by L[ieutenant] Sanders. Junior Cadet training.

School administrations like to boast statistics to support their claims of how well they are performing in their role, and the same was certainly the case during the war with regards to the tally of war service medals students had accumulated.<sup>211</sup> Accordingly the School journal recorded:

**24 January 1918.** Forwarded £4 war medals. Total now 45 + 8 bars high school.

**11 February 1918.** Forwarded £2/10/- war medals. £1/10/- L. Callander, 10/- Kath Leamey, 10/- for bar for Jean Huston.

**25 February 1918.** £5 for war medals: Edith Barrett + 2 bars, Jean Steele + 2 bars, Mavis McArthur + 2 bars, H. Buchanan.

**18 March 1918.** Mayor, Mr Palamountain, E.H. Kentish of School Committee attended parade. 56 of 64 war medals presented to Mayor. War Loan Cert[ificates] to value of £82 by children of high school and primary school.<sup>212</sup>

**14 April 1918.** Sent Mr Hosking £7 for war medals. We now have 75 medals + 25 bars – 10 in high school. The War Loan group working satisfactorily.

**5 September 1918.** Since January 1918, 92 medals + 12 bars = £52 + money collected £131/17/-. (High school responsible for £22/16/9½ of this.) Total £183/17/-.

Whilst giving war service medals proved to be a clever fundraising idea by creating an air of competition between children, it was hardly equitable, as E. Earle of the Hundred of Caroline argued in a letter to the editor of the *Border Watch*. In describing a scene witnessed at the opening of the new Sutton Town school in 1918, he said:

One or two of the children who were wearing war service medals were congratulated, while others who stood there without a medal had done, in various ways, quite as much for their King and country. It is not every child that has the opportunity of gathering bottles or catching rabbits to sell and thus raising 10/ for a medal, but many are doing patriotic work in other ways. The child that has, on its return from school every day, to assist at its home in the place of its brother who is fighting at the front, certainly deserves congratulations as well as the others. I have heard of parents giving each of their children 10/ to get a medal, but it is not every parent who is in a position to do that. I believe in every child getting its dues for what it is doing for its country, free of cost.<sup>213</sup>

Some patriotic activities were too small-scale to make it into the local press:

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<sup>210</sup> Brigadier General John Keatly Forsyth CMG had served on Gallipoli and on the Western Front but had returned to Australia in December 1916 because of ill health. He had been made Commandant of the 4<sup>th</sup> Military District (South Australia) in February 1917.

<sup>211</sup> *Border Watch*, 19 March 1918, p.3, records that on one occasion, when recipients of the medals had been asked how they had raised this money, replies included 'work at home, droving, driving sheep, bottle selling, holding little fairs.'

<sup>212</sup> See also *Border Watch*, 19 March 1918, p.3, for a report in more detail.

<sup>213</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 June 1918, p.3.

**15 February 1918.** Penny concert.

**16 February 1918.** Pet show in school yard. Baby competition. Trench Comforts Fund. Band assisted in streets. 12 of our children selling buttons.

Larger scale efforts required greater coordination and received greater coverage:

**23 February 1918.** Special meeting of teachers to consider patriotic efforts. Good attendance. Decided to hold two big functions. 6 April Election Day. 13 April. 2,500 buttons ordered. Resolved to secure cooperation of parent societies in societies of Red Cross. Mayoress will call meeting of League of Loyal Women, Red Cross all branches for 9 March to finalise

This state-wide fundraiser was coordinated by the South Australian Children's Patriotic League and locally involved all schools and Red Cross branches from in and around Mount Gambier. On the morning of Saturday 6 April button sellers worked the streets, and Red Cross stalls were set up in Commercial Street between Gray Street and Ferrers Street, this day having been selected because most people from nearby rural areas would be coming in to town to vote in the state election being held then.<sup>214</sup> On the following Wednesday, the schools started off the day with a procession of about a thousand children which included 600 from Mount Gambier Primary School and 60 from Mount Gambier High School as well as students from Sutton Town, Moorak, Compton Downs, Yahl, O.B. Flat, Glencoe, Glenburnie, Square Mile, Mount Schanck, Wandilo and Kongorong. The Mount Gambier Public School journal summarised it as:

**10 April 1918** Children's Day. Demonstration, procession. £60 day's work. MGHS had a display of work from every grade, 6 motor cars, 2 trollies. On grounds – maypole, flag drill, kindergarten games, fancy marching – with high school the Tuck Shop.

The *Border Watch* gave a more detailed account, particularly of the procession:

It was a very picturesque procession. A lad carrying a large Union Jack led, and following him was the Mount Gambier school band of about 40 players. The Mount Gambier school children, preceded by their school banner, marched next, and they made an excellent display. They carried hundreds of small British and Australian flags, which gave the procession a very pretty effect. The varied costumes affected by the children, and other accessories, gave it much interest to the onlookers. Although up-to-date spic and span white dresses were worn by the large majority of the girls there were Highland, Welsh, Irish, Chinese, Japanese, Continental European, and various styles of Australian costumes among them. After the banner were 50 or more small boys and girls on tricycles, and further back in the long line was a multitude of girls on scooters. At another part of it was a group of boys and girls with decorated bicycles, and at another part of the line 30 or 40 girls of Grades 4 and 5 with beautifully decorated parasols...

... the procession was preceded by several comically got-up vehicles, occupied by comic people. They were followed by florally decorated motor cars ... These cars were crowded with happy school girls. Following them were trollies dressed with flowers,

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<sup>214</sup> *Border Watch*, 9 April 1918, p.4.

and occupied by school children arranged to form tableaux and dressed appropriately. The Mount Gambier High school tableau represented Britannia and her Allies, and was cleverly thought out and arranged ... The Red Cross trolley was filled with High school girls dressed as Red Cross nurses, and distinguished by large red crosses on their breasts. There was also a chariot with a lot of High School boys ...<sup>215</sup>

The procession marched up Penola Road, ending at Frew Park. The children then saluted the British flag, sang the National Anthem and 'God Bless Our Splendid Men', gave three cheers for the King and 'the boys at the front' and then dispersed for the afternoon's activities: kindergarten games, fancy drill and flag drill, fancy marching, Maypole dances and a series of races. A tuck shop and a sweets stall run by Miss Needham and Mrs Hosking and high school girls catered for the crowd of about 1,500 present. The day's events ended at 5.30 with the singing of the National Anthem. The day's takings were £58/15/-.

In May the high school was inspected by Mr William James Adey, Principal of the Adelaide High School and inspector of high schools, for two days. According to the *Border Watch* he was 'extremely well pleased with the efficiency, tone and discipline of the school; and he complimented Mr Hand, the principal, and Mr H.C. Hosking, B.A., the chief assistant in charge'.<sup>216</sup>

In its usual matter-of-fact manner, the School Journal recorded the 1918 Empire Day celebrations:

**24 May 1918 Empire Day.** 620 primary and 82 high school students present. Patriotic lessons in the morning. 12 noon salute flag. Palamountain, Kilsby, Kentish and head teacher addressed children. Collected £6/15/- for Children's Patriotic Fund.

The day commenced with patriotic lessons until 11.30. These were followed by an assembly at 12 noon. Younger students, soon to occupy a newly-built classroom on Helen Street intended to address the ongoing issues of overcrowding which had plagued the school for some years, carried small flags of Britain and its Allies. Children saluted the British flag, sang the National Anthem accompanied by the school band, hummed 'God Bless Our Splendid Men' and gave three cheers for the King and 'the boys at the front'. Mr Hand welcomed the schools' visitors, which numbered about 30, and went on to outline the school's patriotic achievements such as the £6/12/- raised for the Red Triangle Fund and the 95 war medallists in the school. Three cheers were given for the British Empire before the head teacher asked the Mayoress (Mrs G.B. Renfrey) to present war medals to the latest recipients, Stewart McGibbon and Alf Lucas, after which these 'young patriots' were given three cheers for their efforts. Three cheers were then given for Private Edlington who had been a teacher at the school but was currently serving in France. Finally, several speakers addressed the assembled students, including Mr Palamountain, the Chairman of the School Committee, and other Committee members Mr E.H. Kentish and Mr G.H. Kilsby, after which they were dismissed for the rest of the day.<sup>217</sup>

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<sup>215</sup> *Border Watch*, 12 April 1918, p.5.

<sup>216</sup> *Border Watch*, 17 May 1918, p.5.

<sup>217</sup> *Border Watch*, 24 May 1918, p.5.

Occasional outbreaks of contagious diseases were reported, a reminder of times past when they were part of normal childhood experiences. In May the School Journal recorded that mumps were prevalent, an ongoing outbreak that lasted into August. It also recorded another break-in during the night of 28/29 May, though this time nothing was taken.<sup>218</sup>

The sporting exchange between Mount Gambier High School and Narracoorte High School took place on Saturday 22 June 1918 in the Mount. The ensuing football match was won by the Mount Gambier team 50 points to 7.<sup>219</sup>

On Wednesday 26 June 1918 head teacher Mr Hand was farewelled, having been appointed to East Adelaide School. He was replaced by Mr Matthew C. Mitchell who was transferred from Wallaroo. Members of the School Committee visited the school in the afternoon and Mr Palamountain made a speech before presenting him with a "plated and crystal inkstand" as a parting gift. The children were then dismissed and the staff and committee had afternoon tea in one of the classrooms, after which Mr Hosking presented him with an enlarged photograph of the Blue Lake, coloured and framed, and Miss Hand an antique copper vase, as parting gifts from the staffs of the primary and high schools.<sup>220</sup> Mr Mitchell arrived on Friday evening 5 July, accompanied by his wife and daughter.<sup>221</sup>

In August the high school purchased a spinning wheel for use in the Domestic Arts Centre.<sup>222</sup> At the Empire Day assembly in May the primary and high school students had given three hearty cheers for Private Alf Edlington,<sup>223</sup> who had been a teacher at the school before enlisting in 1916. In August the School Journal recorded his death in France. The school flag was flown at half-mast.

In 1918 Australia Day was not celebrated in Mount Gambier in June, as had been done for the previous three years. Consistently bad weather at that time of year had prompted local organisers to shift it to 13 November. The initial planning meeting was held on Wednesday 9 October 1918<sup>224</sup> and another Wednesday 23 October. During this second meeting the perennial issue of feeding the children was again raised. Mr Mitchell said that a meeting of teachers regarding the day had resolved that each child should bring 3d to buy cakes at the ground. Father Maloney raised the likelihood that some large families might not be able to afford this, to which Mr Gerloff replied that if the teachers kept a record of those who did not have the 3d, he would cover the cost of them being supplied with a treat.<sup>225</sup>

Ironically, the armistice intervened before Australia Day. After a week of rumours about Germany agreeing to peace terms, the announcement making a reality of such hopes was made by the Mayor at the Town Hall at midday on Tuesday 12 November to a crowd of about 4,000, which included several hundred children from the Mount Gambier schools. The

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<sup>218</sup> Also recorded in the *Border Watch*, 31 May 1918, p.2.

<sup>219</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 June 1918, p.2.

<sup>220</sup> *Border Watch*, 28 June 1918, p.2.

<sup>221</sup> *Border Watch*, 12 July 1918, p.3.

<sup>222</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 August 1918, p.2.

<sup>223</sup> *Border Watch*, 24 May 1918, p.5.

<sup>224</sup> *Border Watch*, 15 October 1918, p.3.

<sup>225</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 October 1918, p.4.

students had marched to the Town Hall to the music of the school band playing 'patriotic tunes', led by Mr J.F. Palamountain, Chairman of the School Committee. The *Border Watch* reported on the announcement by the Mayor and the speech by Anglican Archdeacon Samwell, which was followed by the singing of hymns 'Praise to our God' and the Doxology, the National Anthem and 'God Bless Our Splendid Men':

'The Mayor then asked Mr Mitchell, of the public school, if he could give the children a half holiday. Mr Mitchell could not without the consent of the Director of Education. The Mayor said he would take the responsibility of that. Mr Palamountain, the Chairman of the school committee, afterwards saw Mr Mitchell and took the responsibility of granting the children a holiday to enable them to join in the rejoicings.<sup>226</sup>

The School Journal records that moment of discomfort for the new head teacher:

**12 November 1918** *Children marched to Town Hall at 12 o'clock to take part in Thanksgiving Ceremony in connection with Declaration of Peace. The Mayor declared school half-holiday in spite of my protestations that such a course was irregular. Afternoon attendance 133.*

In the afternoon, a programme of impromptu sports took place in the street, which included what the newspaper described as 'Kiddies races', which might partly account for the low attendance back at school in the afternoon.



***Crowd beginning to assemble in front of the Town Hall on the morning of 12 November 1918 in anticipation of the Mayor's announcement that an armistice had been signed. (Les Hill Collection)***

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<sup>226</sup> *Border Watch*, 12 November 1918, p.3.



***The Mayor, Mr Renfrey, reading the formal announcement that the war had ended to a crowd of about 4,000 in front of the Town Hall, 12 November 1918. (Les Hill Collection)***

Australia Day was celebrated the following day, proceeds again going to the South Australian Soldiers' Fund for 'the benefit of the widows and orphans of those who had given their lives for their country'. The event followed the same format as the previous year, a procession broken into mounted and unmounted (which included the school children) sections which moved to the showground via different routes, an afternoon of sports, and an evening concert.<sup>227</sup>

On Tuesday 3 December a fete was held on the grounds of the high school. The £12 raised, was able to be devoted to the school fund instead of going towards funds for the war as was its original intention.<sup>228</sup>

Finally, at the end of 1918, the separation between the primary school and high school was formalised when Mr Hosking, who had been chief assistant at Mount Gambier District High School for the past 10½ years, was notified that he had been appointed headmaster of the school.<sup>229</sup>

The *Border Watch* records in December 1918 that a Lieutenant L.E. Colley, described as a returned soldier of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion had visited Mount Gambier Public School, Mount Gambier High School, and other local schools at Square Mile, Yahl Paddock, Port MacDonnell, Millicent and Beachport, addressing students:

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<sup>227</sup> *Border Watch*, 15 November 1918, pp.3-4.

<sup>228</sup> *Border Watch*, 6 December 1918, p.2.

<sup>229</sup> *Border Watch*, 17 December 1918, p.2.

He took his part in the European war, and now that he has been rendered unfit for further practical work he is engaged in lecturing. His lectures urge the necessity of assisting our country by investing in war savings certificates, and he stimulates interest and anxiety to assist by dealing particularly with the achievements of our race in various parts of the world.<sup>230</sup>

It would seem that the claim regarding his involvement in the European war was something of an exaggeration. Leon Edward Colley had indeed been a soldier in the British army and had volunteered in Adelaide as a 38-year-old for service in the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF), embarked for German New Guinea in November 1914 and had been stationed at Rabaul until being returned to Australia in late 1915, being discharged in February 1916.<sup>231</sup>

## 1919

In January the *Border Watch* announced that a student of Mount Gambier High School, Arthur Charles Savage (of Robe), had been awarded one of six scholarships offered by the Minister of Education. The scholarship was for two years tuition at Adelaide High School and £40 per year and was based on state-wide Junior Public Examinations.<sup>232</sup>

The school year commenced on Tuesday 28 January 1919. Mount Gambier Primary School enrolments numbered 755, with a teaching staff of 12. Mount Gambier High School commenced with 58 students, including 21 new enrolments.<sup>233</sup> Commercial subjects such as bookkeeping, shorthand, typing, and business correspondence were offered for the first time, Mount Gambier being one of the country high schools chosen to roll out this innovation, which it was planned to gradually expand to all country high schools. Miss Helene Raffelt had been appointed to the position. She would be at Mount Gambier High on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and at Narracoorte High on Mondays and Wednesdays.<sup>234</sup>

In February 1919 the *Border Watch* reported the engagement of Nora Kathleen Needham, Domestic Arts teacher at the high school.<sup>235</sup> Her resignation followed soon after,<sup>236</sup> required because of community standards at the time which required married women to resign, and her sister, Muriel, was appointed to replace her.<sup>237</sup> Nora was farewelled by staff and students at Carr's Café, where Mr Hosking presented her with a case of silver dessert spoons and forks as a parting gift.<sup>238</sup> Her wedding took place in early June.<sup>239</sup>

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<sup>230</sup> *Border Watch*, 20 December 1918, p.4.

<sup>231</sup> NAA: B2455, Colley LE

<sup>232</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 January 1919, p.3.

<sup>233</sup> *Border Watch*, 31 January 1919, p.3.

<sup>234</sup> *Border Watch*, 31 January 1919, p.2. A sharing similar arrangement was planned for other rural centres.

<sup>235</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 February 1919, p.2.

<sup>236</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 March 1919, p.2.

<sup>237</sup> *Border Watch*, 1 April 1919, p.2.

<sup>238</sup> *Border Watch*, 4 April 1919, p.3.

<sup>239</sup> *Border Watch*, 6 June 1919, p.4.

In May 1919 the first cases of the worldwide influenza epidemic were reported in Mount Gambier.<sup>240</sup> Estimates of how many people died differ widely, probably somewhere in the region of 20 to 40 million. Its devastating effects on populations overseas prompted the local Board of Health to ask for the use of the high school as an isolation hospital, a request that was granted by the Minister of Education on the condition that its pictures be removed and packed away securely and that it be cleaned before returning it for use as a school.<sup>241</sup> By the end of May the high school had commenced using the Methodist Lecture Hall <sup>242</sup>as an alternative and the high school buildings were in use to care from some locals who had contracted the virus. Local schools were closed from 22 July to 22 August.<sup>243</sup> During the outbreak, hundreds of locals were treated in their homes, and 67 people were treated in the makeshift hospital before it was closed in mid-September.<sup>244</sup> Three people died.<sup>245</sup>

On Saturday 19 July 1919, just before school holidays, a special assembly was held at 10am for the distribution of peace medals to students, 'past, present and prospective'. The assembly began with children singing 'Hymn of Peace', Chairman of the School Committee Mr J.F. Palamountain gave a short speech, children sang 'Song of Australia', and Reverend J.H. Nield read an address written by Australian War Correspondent Charles Bean for such an occasion. Medals were then distributed to 'nearly 900 children and their proxies, three cheers were given for the King, and the assembly concluded at around midday with the singing of the National Anthem.'<sup>246</sup>

The entry in the School journal for the following Monday reads:

**21 July 1919.** *Holiday granted by the Hon. Minister of Education on account of Peace Celebrations.*



*Reverend John Henry Nield, 47, married, Methodist minister, then*

*of Kooringa, South Australia, enlisted as a Chaplain in the AIF on 27 April 1915 and arrived at Suez in Egypt on 30 June 1915 where he was attached to the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He became sick in July while in camp and in September was returned to Australia. He was discharged 'medically unfit' in January 1916 and subsequently sent to Mount Gambier where he was the local minister until being farewelled in 1920.*

<sup>240</sup> *Border Watch*, 20 May 1919, p.2.

<sup>241</sup> *Border Watch*, 23 May 1919, p.3.

<sup>242</sup> *Border Watch*, 27 May 1919, p.3.

<sup>243</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 July 1919, p.3; 29 August 1919, p.4.

<sup>244</sup> *Border watch*, 23 September 1919, p.3.

<sup>245</sup> *Border Watch*, 28 November 1919, p.4.

<sup>246</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 July 1919, p.4.

## THE HONOR ROLL

Honor rolls were commonly used as a recruiting tool throughout the war. Any young man could get their name added to the list of local heroes – all they had to do was enlist. Mount Gambier was no exception in this regard. From 1916 such honor rolls listing ex-students of the school who had joined up were occasionally referred to during assemblies on special days such as Empire Day. Numbers grew as time went by and others followed their example. After the war was over however it was decided that these men should receive a more permanent form of recognition.

In late November 1919 the *Border Watch* advertised a meeting to be held in the Rechabites Hall at 8pm on Monday 1 December to discuss a proposal to create an association for old scholars of Mount Gambier High School.<sup>247</sup> Over 70 people attended the meeting which created the proposed association, which could include past and present students and teachers, including past staff and students of the original continuation class. Office bearers for the new association were elected and a proposal unanimously carried 'that steps be taken to erect a suitable memorial in the High School building in memory of the old scholars who enlisted for active service in the war 1914-19.'

Plans were begun for a banquet to be held in February 1920 to honour returned old scholars.<sup>248</sup> Details for the event were finalised at a subsequent meeting at Carr's Café on Tuesday 27 January. The complimentary banquet and dance was to be held in the Caledonian Hall on Wednesday 18 February. It was decided that a special invitation should be sent to Mr Viney, the 'first assistant in charge of the Mount Gambier High School.'<sup>249</sup> This social event proved very successful, with over 200 people attending, including soldier members William John Shaughnessy (the inaugural president of the association), Harold Lindsay Green, Reginald William Carr, Gilbert Graham Poole, Frederick John Sheather, Frank Oliver Scutt, Eric John Shepherd, Horace Eldred Jarrad, Reginald Alexander Bertram Hay, Wilbur Harold Rook, Donald Neil MacGillivray, Murray Leslie Lawrence, Frederick Charles Elliott, and Glanville Montague McAdam.<sup>250</sup> Mr H.C. Hosking made a speech in which he emphasised that 'a matter dear to his heart was the installing of a permanent memorial in the present High School to perpetuate the memory of those fallen lads.'<sup>251</sup>

It was decided at a meeting of the association committee on Wednesday 14 April to proceed with the creation of a memorial which should be to 'members who enlisted during the war', not just those who had lost their lives. The memorial was to be composed of a 'white marble slab with red Verona and polished blue Belge marble ... to be hung in the corridor at the High School.' To help raise money for this a dance would be held in the Caledonian Hall on Friday 23 April.<sup>252</sup> The dance raised £8 to go toward the cause.<sup>253</sup>

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<sup>247</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 November 1919, p.2.

<sup>248</sup> *Border Watch*, 9 December 1919, p.2.

<sup>249</sup> *Border Watch*, 30 January 1920, p.2.

<sup>250</sup> All these men, except Sheather and Scutt, are listed on the Mount Gambier High School Honor Roll.

<sup>251</sup> *Border Watch*, 20 February 1920, p.3.

<sup>252</sup> *Border Watch*, 16 April 1920, p.2.

<sup>253</sup> *Border Watch*, 27 April 1920, p.3.



The honor roll was officially unveiled on Wednesday 8 December 1920. About 150 people attended the ceremony, which was presided over by the chairman of the High School Council, Mr J.F. Palamountain. Following speeches by the newly-elected mayor, Mr C.L. Spehr, and Colonel-Chaplain Samwell, the Union Jack covering the memorial was drawn aside by returned soldier and old scholar Eric John Shepherd.<sup>254</sup>

The Mount Gambier High School Roll of Honor is now located in the school's library. The school itself is now located on Browne's Road, a block away from its original site on Commercial Street. The original building was never intended to house the number of students currently enrolled, and has gone through a number of uses. It is currently Pangula Mannamurna (the locally-run Aboriginal health centre). When the building was renovated several years ago, the Honor Roll was taken down and passed on to the school. For some time it sat in the groundsman's shed, awaiting a decision as to what should be done with it. During this time it suffered some damage, and underwent a repair which was funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Following these repairs it was installed in the school library.

<sup>254</sup> *Border Watch*, 10 December 1920, p.4. The list of names in this report includes three names that do not appear on the honor roll today: E.L. Cook, J.L. Davies and L. Davies.

## “Our Glorious Dead”

### **Lieutenant Alan Dexter PALMER (Died of wounds 6 August 1916)**

Alan Dexter Palmer was born at Mount Gambier on 15 January 1895, the son of William Simmons Palmer. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 9 October 1908 by his father, William Palmer, miller’s assistant, of Church Street, Mount Gambier, and left the school on 24 June 1910.<sup>255</sup>

He enlisted (20, draper, single, Methodist) on 6 June 1915, naming his father, William Simmons Palmer of Mount Gambier as next of kin. He was presented with a fountain pen from the members of the Methodist Young Men's Class on Sunday 5 September while back in Mount Gambier on final leave<sup>256</sup> and commissioned as a second lieutenant prior to embarking from Adelaide on the ‘Ballarat’ on 14 September 1915. He joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse on Gallipoli on 8 December 1915, not long before Australian troops were evacuated and subsequently disembarked at Alexandria in Egypt on 27 December.

On 24 March 1916 he was promoted to lieutenant. He attended a course of instruction between 25 May and 17 June 1916 and was seconded to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Machine Gun Squadron on 23 July. He suffered a bullet wound to his chest on 5 August 1916 at Romani, died of wounds the following day and was buried to the north-west end of Bir El Nagid. His father received a letter from Lieutenant Hartley Williams regarding the death of his son:

He was badly hit on the first day of our big fight with the Turks at a place called Hamisah. I did not see him after he was wounded, as I was in a different position in the fight. He died early the following morning ... His grave is in a large palm grove, and a nice cross has been erected. The ... Church of England padre with the brigade, was with him until near the end, and conducted the burial service.<sup>257</sup>

Later his remains (and those of two others buried with him) were exhumed and reburied in Kantara War Cemetery, Egypt.

### **8409 Charles Gordon BEAUCHAMP (Killed in action 7 August 1916)**

Charles Gordon Beauchamp was born at Naracoorte, South Australia, on 15 April 1896, to Charles and Jessie Emma Beauchamp. He had attended school at Naracoorte before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 25 January 1909 by Walter Beauchamp, livery stable manager, of Jane Street, Mount Gambier.<sup>258</sup> He had a twin brother Frank who was also enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on the same day. He left school briefly in September 1912 but was re-enrolled in November, finally leaving on 6 June 1913,<sup>259</sup> then joined the local post-office where he worked for several years before being transferred to the G.P.O., Adelaide.<sup>260</sup> He had served 3 years with school cadets, 3 years with the senior cadets, 74<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>255</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 85.

<sup>256</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 September 1915, p.3.

<sup>257</sup> *Border Watch*, 1 November 1916, p.4.

<sup>258</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 97.

<sup>259</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 272.

<sup>260</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 September 1916, p.3.

Battalion, and then had transferred to the Field Artillery and was still serving at the time he enlisted.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 14 June 1915 (19, postman, single, Presbyterian), naming his mother, Mrs Jessie Emma Beauchamp of Mount Gambier as his next of kin, and embarked from Melbourne on the 'Persic' on 22 November as a gunner attached to the 18<sup>th</sup> Battery of the 6<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, disembarking at Suez in Egypt on 21 December. He embarked again at Alexandria in Egypt on 17 March 1916 and disembarked at Marseilles in France on 23 March.

His unit was based near Bois Grenier from 4 April to 3 July 1916, after which they handed the covering of the line over to another Australian artillery unit, before being based briefly near Neuve Eglise, there being replaced by the 107<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery on 8 July. On 27 July it moved into the line at Sausage Valley, supporting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division attacks near Pozieres. Beauchamp was killed in action on 7 August 1916 and buried in Gordon Dump Cemetery, Ovillers La Boiselle (near Albert), Picardie, in France.

### **3281 Leslie SNEYD (Killed in action 5 November 1916)**

Leslie Sneyd was born at Mount Gambier on 14 December 1893, the son of George Coleman and Ellen Sneyd. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School in December 1907 by his father, George Coleman Sneyd, saddler, of William Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 30 March 1909<sup>261</sup> and subsequently attended the Adelaide School of Mines where he trained as a draughtsman. He joined the South Australian Railways in 1911 as a junior porter<sup>262</sup> and at the time of his enlistment was working for the Engineer-in-Chief's Department of the Railways in Adelaide.

He enlisted (21, draughtsman, single, Church of England) on 4 August 1915, naming his mother Ellen Sneyd of Mount Gambier as his next of kin. He was one of the North Adelaide footballers leaving for the war who were entertained at the North Adelaide Institute and presented with a money belt.<sup>263</sup>

He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Medic' on 12 January 1916 as a Private attached to the 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion and disembarked in Egypt about a month later. He embarked from Alexandria on the 'Oriana' on 21 March 1916, disembarked at Marseilles on 27 March, and joined the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion near Armentieres on 2 May 1916 where he was involved in the battalion's attacks on the German lines near Pozieres in late July and early August for which he was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. His commendation reads:

During the attack on Pozieres Ridge on 4/5 August, 1916, he did valuable observation work from dangerous positions displaying coolness and courage. He went back from the advanced captured positions through shell-fire and brought up water and rations

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<sup>261</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 58.

<sup>262</sup> *Border Watch*, 20 December 1916, p.4.

<sup>263</sup> *Border Watch*, 6 October 1915, p.3.

for his comrades. After his Battalion had been withdrawn he volunteered for and performed work as a stretcher-bearer under difficult conditions for several hours.

He was promoted to Corporal on 5 August 1916 and was killed during the battalion attack on German positions near Montauban on 5 November. Early in 1917 Mr and Mrs Sneyd received a letter from 3294 Private Arthur Leslie Walters<sup>264</sup> giving an account of their son's death:

On the 5<sup>th</sup> November, at 0.15, we went over the top; it was, terrible seeing the poor fellows falling round us. We got over to the German trench, and had to start with the bombs to keep them back. Les did splendid work bombing until we ran short of bombs, and had to use Fritz's bombs that he had left in the trench. We held the trench for two hours, but then had to retire to our own line. Just as Les was leaving the German trench a bomb struck him on the head, and I believe killed him out-right.<sup>265</sup>

After the war his remains were exhumed and reinterred in Warlencourt British Cemetery, Warlencourt-Eaucourt, Arras, Nord Pas de Calais, France.

### **2837 Llewellyn WILLIAMS (Killed in action 8 November 1916)**

Llewellyn Williams was born at Warracknabeal, Victoria, on 20 March 1895, the son of the Thomas<sup>266</sup> and Margaret Williams. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 9 October 1908 by his father, Thomas Williams, blacksmith, of Anthony Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 30 March 1909<sup>267</sup> and worked at the post office in Mount Gambier before transferring to the Adelaide G.P.O.<sup>268</sup> He had served 4 years in the senior cadets.

He had previously been rejected from the Commonwealth Military Forces because his small chest measurement did not satisfy basic requirements but in August 1915 his application to enlist (20, post office clerk, single, Presbyterian) was accepted. He named his mother, Margaret Williams of Mount Gambier as his next of kin. His file in the National Archives contains an extremely moving letter from his mother dated 14 July 1915 replying to his request that she agree to his enlistment:

Dear Llew,

I received your letter card this morning & it really was not a surprise to me to learn that you wanted to go to the war as I have been frightened to open your letters although excepting [accepting] it I had a good howl about it but still I will not stand in your light go if you think it is right to do so but mind it is heart breaking for me to say yes ... I will just have to leave you in (God's hands) but if you go Llew I suppose you will be able to come home for a few days do you get higher wages if not you are better to stay where you are & now write & give me all particulars Llew with love from all at home from your ever loving mother

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<sup>264</sup> Walters was originally from Penola and was killed on 2 September 1918 during the attack near Mont St Quentin.

<sup>265</sup> *Border Watch*, 31 January 1917, p.2.

<sup>266</sup> Llewellyn Williams's father died in 1911. The *Border Watch*, 17 May 1911, p.2, records his obituary.

<sup>267</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 86.

<sup>268</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 December 1916, p.3.

He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Benalla' on 27 October 1915 attached to the 6<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion, disembarked in Egypt a month later and was transferred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion in late February 1916. He embarked from Alexandria on 27 March 1916, disembarking at Marseilles, France, on 3 April, was appointed a Temporary Corporal on 1 August 1916, but reduced to the ranks in October 1916 for allowing prisoners in his charge to obtain liquor. He was killed in action on 8 November 1916 in the trench lines near Guedecourt Wood.

A statement by 925 Sergeant Sydney Frederick James Farrell says the battalion was subjected to heavy shellfire during the day and that a shell had exploded within a few yards of where Williams was standing, killing Williams and another soldier and wounding five others. Farrell could see no wounds, so believed that concussion was the cause of death. He made crosses with full inscriptions for both men the next day and buried them that night just behind the lines. 2804 Private Harold Tierney gave a similar version of events.<sup>269</sup> Williams's name is listed on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France.

#### **197 Roy Walton UNDERWOOD (Killed in action 5 March 1917)**

Roy Walton Underwood was born at Mount Gambier on 2 January 1893, the son of John Isaac and Emily Underwood. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, John Underwood, bootmaker, of Penola Road, Mount Gambier, and left the school on 1 November 1907.<sup>270</sup>

He enlisted at Keswick, South Australia, on 21 July 1915 (22, labourer, single, Baptist), naming his mother, Mrs Emily Underwood of St Peters as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Geelong' on 18 November 1915 attached to A Company of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and disembarked at Suez on 18 December. While in Egypt he was hospitalised with influenza from 22 to 30 April 1916.

He embarked from Alexandria on the 'Transylvania' on 17 June 1916, disembarking at Marseilles in France on 23 June. He served during the horrendous battle of Fromelles on 19 July 1916. He was killed in action on 5 March 1917 and subsequently buried in Bancourt British Cemetery, France.

#### **2760 Percy Oswald TRUMAN (Killed in action 19 April 1917)**

Percy Oswald Truman was born on 31 December 1898 at Mount Gambier, son of George Edward and Maria Truman. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 27 September 1910 by his father, George E. Truman, wheelwright, of Wehl Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 27 September 1912.<sup>271</sup> He had served with C Company, 74<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Commonwealth Military Forces. Truman worked in the local post-office and played cricket for St Andrew's Club.<sup>272</sup>

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<sup>269</sup> 6085 Private John Henry McDonald related what he recalled but his was a very different story. In fact, he gave two versions, each of which appear to be significantly different from the other.

<sup>270</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 42.

<sup>271</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 148.

<sup>272</sup> *Border Watch*, 2 May 1917, p.4.

He enlisted in Mount Gambier on 7 February 1916 (19, postal assistant, single, Presbyterian), and named his father, George Edward Truman of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. His mother was Maria Truman. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Mongolia' on 13 July as a private attached to the 19<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment and arrived in Egypt on 12 August where he was attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Training Regiment. He completed a course of instruction in signalling in November and December of 1916 before being transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment in mid-February 1917.

He was involved in the First Battle of Gaza on 27 March 1917 and was killed in action on 19 April 1917 during the equally unsuccessful Second Gaza. According to a letter from Lieutenant George Louis Henry Mueller:

We had just advanced across the open when shrapnel was poured on us very thickly. Percy was about 20 yards behind me when he was hit with a pellet of shrapnel which went in near the right ear and out on the left side of the face. Death was instantaneous. Cpl [Corporal] Gaudy, who dressed his wound and attended the burial, is writing you, enclosing your son's personal gear that was found in his pockets. Your son was buried about seven miles south-east of Gaza, in Syria.<sup>273</sup>

Military records held by the Australian Archives however suggest his body was left on the field during the withdrawal from Ataweinah, about 6 miles south-east of Gaza and that his remains were exhumed later and reburied in Gaza Military Cemetery, Egypt. It is probable that the information in Lieutenant Mueller's letter was prompted by a concern for Mrs Truman's feelings rather than being an accurate reflection of the facts surrounding Percy's death. He likely reasoned that Percy's mother would have obtained some solace in the thought that his death had been quick and would not want to hear that his body had not received a proper burial. On reflection, why would Corporal Gaudy have bandaged Percy's wounds if Percy's death had been instantaneous?

### **1931 William Morris HAY (Died of wounds 24 April 1917)**

William Morris Hay was born at Mount Gambier on 8 February 1893, the son of James and Mary Hay. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father James Hay, agent, of Chute Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 25 June 1907.<sup>274</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 15 December 1915 (22, farmer, single, Presbyterian), naming his father, James Hay of Kongorong as his next of kin, and embarked from Adelaide on the 'Seang Bee' on 13 July 1916. He was attached to the 12<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion in England for a time before being sent overseas to France on 8 January 1917 where he joined the 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 17 January 1917. He was wounded in action (gunshot wound back and leg) on 11 April during the 4<sup>th</sup> Division's attack at Bullecourt, died of wounds at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital in Rouen on 24 April 1917, and was buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France.

### **2382 Robert George LUCAS (Killed in action 10 May 1917)**

Robert George Lucas was born on 28 February 1897 at Kapunda, South Australia, the son of Aleck Richard and Edith Lucas. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 9 October

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<sup>273</sup> *Border Watch*, 16 June 1917, p.3.

<sup>274</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 41.

1908 by his father, Alick Richard Lucas, nurseryman at the government nursery in Mount Gambier (which was in the Lakes area). He left the school on 31 March 1910.<sup>275</sup> He had served 4 years with senior cadets and 1 year with the local Commonwealth Military Forces prior to enlisting.

He enlisted (19, nurseryman, single, Methodist) at Mount Gambier on 16 March 1916, having previously been rejected due to a deformed second toe on his left foot, naming his father Alick Richard Lucas (who worked for the state Forest Department) of Mount Gambier as his next of kin. He embarked on the 'Itria' from Adelaide on 14 August 1916 as a private attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to the 5<sup>th</sup> Pioneers, disembarked at Plymouth, England, and was attached to the Pioneer Training Battalion.

He was sent overseas to France on 31 December 1916, and had an 'A' added to his regimental number on joining the 5<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Battalion on 11 February 1917. In the following months the battalion was busy extending the light railways and mule tracks, constructing new trenches and repairing damaged ones. Lucas was one of twelve men from the battalion killed in action by enemy shelling of the lines on 10 May 1917. His remains were later exhumed and reburied in Vaulx Hill Cemetery, Vaulx, Picardie, in France.

### **937 Theodore Willard WRIGHT (Died of wounds 31 July 1917)**

Theodore Willard Wright was born at Mount Gambier on 30 December 1892, son of Joseph and Alice Jane Wright. He attended Mount Gambier Grammar School before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, Joseph Wright, carpenter, of North Terrace, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 20 December 1907.<sup>276</sup> A report of his death published in the *Border Watch* said:

He was a native<sup>277</sup> of Mount Gambier, and lived here up till a few years ago. He recently returned to Mount Gambier, and was employed as a monoline operator at the [local newspaper the South Eastern] "Star"<sup>278</sup> Office when he enlisted about 18 months ago. He made repeated attempts to enlist, but was unsuccessful owing to dental defects ... [He had been] a prominent member of the Methodist Young Men's Class and the Methodist Tennis Club while in Mount Gambier ...<sup>279</sup>

He enlisted at Mount Gambier (23, monoline operator, single, Methodist) on 13 February 1916, was promoted to Lance Corporal on 1 June 1916, just before embarking from Adelaide on the 'Afric' on 9 June 1916 attached to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. He disembarked at Marseilles in France on 20 July 1916. From here he travelled to England where he underwent further training, was promoted to the rank of Corporal on 22 November 1916 and embarked with his battalion for France three days later. He attended a course of instruction at the Lewis Gun School between 29 May and 17 June 1917. He was wounded in action on 31 July 1917, died later the same day, and is listed on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders, Belgium.

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<sup>275</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 94.

<sup>276</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 39.

<sup>277</sup> This expression was used to indicate he was born at Mount Gambier.

<sup>278</sup> *South Eastern Star*, a local newspaper.

<sup>279</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 August 1917, p.2.

The Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau file<sup>280</sup> provides some insight into the circumstances of his death, though there are differences in the accounts given. At least three of the men who responded to Red Cross inquirers were men who would have known him in Mount Gambier before the war (971 Private Thorwald Emil Lear Kook<sup>281</sup>, 3324 Private Francis Connolly Tormay, and 6410 Horace Eldred Jarrad) and one of these, Jarrad, had been a workmate of Wright, though Jarrad was from a different unit and his report was probably based on hearsay. The most likely scenario seems to have been the account given by 523 Sergeant James Maxwell Mitchell:

We went over at Warneton on 31 July and took some strong points. Wright was with us and we established strong points of our own and Wright, who was a Cpl [Corporal]. Was in charge of his section. A shell came over and he got a nasty wound in the leg as he attempted to go back to the D/S [Dressing Station] he got a sniper's bullet in the head which killed him instantly.

Death as a result of a sniper is also indicated in the accounts of 2526 Private Walter Bruce Murray and 824 Cecil William Richards, both of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. Others such as Kook who reported him having been killed by a shell probably saw him after he had been wounded and assumed he died soon after from these wounds.

#### **6557A Alfred Robert EDLINGTON (Died of wounds 11 August 1918)**

Alfred Robert Edlington was born on 17 August 1897 at Mount Gambier to George and Mercy Edlington. He attended school at Wandilo before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 25 January 1911 by his father, George Edlington, farmer, of Wandilo. He left the school on 19 December 1913.<sup>282</sup> He had served 4 years with the senior cadets and subsequently 1 year with the 74<sup>th</sup> Battalion Commonwealth Military Forces, still serving at the time of enlistment. A Mount Gambier Public School Journal entry dated 29 August 1916 (where he had been working as an assistant teacher) mentioned that Mr Edlington had 'volunteered for the front today, had undergone a medical examination and pronounced fit to serve in the AIF, and was to report to Adelaide in two weeks'. Another entry dated 6 September 1916 reported that Mr Edlington had been entertained by the school's teachers at afternoon tea and was presented with an 'auto-strop razor' by the teachers and a money belt by the Grade IV class and socks by the girls. On 8 September he visited the school to say farewell, and left for camp by train that evening. He enlisted (19, school teacher, single, Church of England) in Adelaide on 11 September 1916, naming his mother, Mercy Edlington of Mount Gambier as his next of kin.

He embarked on the 'Miltiades' from Adelaide on 24 January 1917 as a private attached to the 19<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion, disembarked at Devonport in England on 27 March 1917, and was attached to the 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, Rollestone. He attended a course of instruction at the Army Signal School, Dunstable, from 25 October to 26 December and qualified as an assistant instructor of signalling.

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<sup>280</sup> <http://static.awm.gov.au/images/collection/pdf/RCDIG1058841--1-.PDF>

<sup>281</sup> The Red Cross Wounded and Missing file incorrectly identifies him as "971 Pte. T. Rooke".

<sup>282</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 183.

He was sent overseas to France on 5 February 1918 and joined the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 9 February when the letter 'A' was added to his regimental number. He was wounded in action (shrapnel wound and compound fracture of the leg) during a major attack by the brigade on 11 August 1918 and died later the same day while being evacuated by the 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance. A letter from Lieutenant Arthur Ferdinand Walters of the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion to Edlington's parents regarding the circumstances leading to his death stated:

On the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> we were attacking, and I got word that several signallers had been wounded. Your son and another signaller named Holland<sup>283</sup> started off to take the places of the wounded men, but were themselves caught by a shell before reaching the company. Holland was only slightly wounded, but your son was severely wounded in the leg and arm.<sup>284</sup>

Originally buried Lamotte en Santerre Communal Cemetery Extension, his remains were later exhumed and re-interred in the nearby Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France.

The Mount Gambier Public School Journal contains an entry dated 28 August 1918 which mentions that news had been received of Edlington's death in France and that the flag was flown at half-mast as a sign of respect.

### **3131 Raymond Hinton GROVE (Died accidental, 19 August 1918)**

Raymond Hinton Grove was born in Melbourne on 24 February 1892. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 29 January 1907 by his father, Joseph Grove, a contractor of Chute Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 20 December 1907<sup>285</sup>. He had also attended Mount Gambier Grammar School. His family and he left Mount Gambier in about 1910. In Adelaide he joined the Government Survey Department and became an accredited surveyor.<sup>286</sup>

He enlisted at Keswick on 4 August 1915 (23, engineering surveyor, married with 1 child, Baptist), naming his wife, Myra Irene Grove of Malvern, SA, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Medic' on 12 January 1916 as an Acting Corporal attached to the 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion and disembarked in Egypt about a month later.

He re-embarked from Alexandria on the 'Orana' 21 March 1916, disembarked at Marseilles in France on 27 March and was taken on strength of the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 2 May 1916. Several months later he was attached to the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade Machine Gun Company on 22 July 1916 and in February 1917 was again transferred, this time to the 1<sup>st</sup> Anzac Light Railway. He was appointed to the rank of Temporary Corporal on 11 August 1917 and promoted to Corporal on 1 October 1917.

On 27 October 1917 he was transferred to the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) in England and joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Flying Corps School of Aeronautics, at Reading, as a cadet. He was marched into the 5<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron for elementary instruction in aviation on 15 January

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<sup>283</sup> 3852 Henry James Holland.

<sup>284</sup> *Border Watch*, 3 December 1918, p.3.

<sup>285</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 51.

<sup>286</sup> *Border Watch*, 30 August 1918, p.2.

1918, detached to the 34<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron, Royal Flying Corps (RFC) at Tern Hill for higher instruction in aviation on 4 March 1918, and graduated as a Flying Officer (Pilot) with the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 26 June 1918.

He was killed accidentally on 19 August 1918, when the aircraft he was flying, a Sopwith Camel, nose-dived into the sea, 2 miles south of Turnberry in Scotland, during gunnery practice. A Court of Enquiry dated 20 August found the cause to be pilot error. His body was recovered and he was buried in Doune Cemetery, South Ayrshire, Scotland, United Kingdom on 30 August. During his funeral ceremony three Sopwith Camels from his squadron performed a fly-over in his honour.



***Alfred Robert Edlington (State Records SA), killed in France in 1918.***

The Mount Gambier Public School Journal contains the following entries about him, reminders of the ongoing impact the war was having on the school community:

- **29 August 1916** *Mr Edlington volunteered for the front today. He was medically examined and pronounced fit. Top report to Adelaide in 2 weeks. I reported to Director.*
- **6 September 1916** *Mr Edlington entertained by teachers at afternoon tea, presented with auto-strop razor by teachers, money belt by Grade IV, socks by girls.*
- **8 September 1916** *Mr Edlington visited school to say farewell – left by train in the evening for camp.*
- **29 August 1918** *Received news of Private A.R. Edlington's death in action in France. Flew flag at half-mast.*



*Alan Dexter Palmer (State Records SA)*



*Leslie Sneyd (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Charles Gordon Beauchamp  
(State Records SA)*



*Llewellyn Williams (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Roy Walton Underwood (Australian War Memorial H06574)*



*William Morris Hay (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Percy Oswald Truman (State Records SA)*



*Robert George Lucas (Mt Gambier RSL)*

## HORACE GEORGE VINEY

Horace George Viney was born at Parkside, Adelaide, on 8 June 1885. He was listed as a pupil teacher from 1901 to 1906<sup>287</sup>, and attended University Training College in 1905 and 1906.<sup>288</sup> He was appointed as assistant teacher in charge of the Mount Gambier Public School Continuation Class (later Mount Gambier High School) in 1907. In 1908 he was transferred to Kadina and then in August 1909 to Moonta, retiring from teaching on 25 September 1909. Following this he increased his involvement with the cadet movement and qualified for appointment to the Administrative and Instructional Staff of the new Australian Military Forces in 1912.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 19 August 1914 (29, soldier, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Mrs Grace Stodden Viney, of Hyde Park, South Australia, as his next of kin. On 20 August 1914 he was appointed Lieutenant and Adjutant to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Regiment, and on 18 October 1914 was promoted to the rank of Captain. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Port Lincoln' on 22 October 1914.

He landed on Gallipoli with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse on 9 May 1915, was promoted to the rank of Major on 10 September, and continued to participate in unit actions until falling sick on 11 September. Evacuated on the hospital ship 'Gascon', he was hospitalised with gastritis at Malta on 16 September, shipped to Egypt on 25 September, embarked from Alexandria in Egypt on 10 October and re-joined his unit on Gallipoli on 17 October. On 11 December 1915 he was detached for duty with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division AIF infantry. After the evacuation of Gallipoli he disembarked at Alexandria on 10 January 1916.

He was posted as Brigade Major of the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade on 1 February 1916 and embarked from Alexandria on 17 March 1916, disembarking at Marseilles on the Mediterranean coast of France on 23 March. He received specific mention for his contribution to the effective leadership of his division while holding a portion of the line in the Pozieres sector in September and was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

He was sent for advanced staff training on 24 December 1916 before re-joining 1<sup>st</sup> Division Headquarters on 21 February 1917. He served as a staff officer with the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division and later the Australian Corps on the Western Front for the duration of the war and rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

He married Darragh O'Neill at Harrow parish church, Middlesex, on 6 June 1918. After the war he left England for return to Australia on 18 July 1919 on the 'Orsova', disembarked on 18 September 1919, and was discharged from the AIF on 17 November 1919, having been mentioned in despatches five times, appointed Commander of the British Empire (CBE) and awarded the French Croix de Guerre.

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<sup>287</sup> Teachers, University of South Australia, 'Viney, Horace George', <http://www.library.unisa.edu.au/condon/teachers/Teachers.asp?TeacherID=3290>

<sup>288</sup> Teachers, University of South Australia, 'Viney, Horace George', <http://www.library.unisa.edu.au/condon/teachers/Teachers.asp?TeacherID=8435>



***A group portrait of B Mess of Australian Corps Headquarters taken in Belgium in January 1919. Lieutenant Colonel Horace George Viney is seated in the centre. (Australian War Memorial E04086)***

## **TWO NURSES**

Civilian nurses who were single, aged between 21 and 40, and had completed at least three years of nursing training in approved hospitals, could apply to serve in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) during the First World War. Over 2,000 Australian women did so. Egypt, France, Belgium and England were relatively well-known as places where Australian nurses served. Perhaps less well-known were Greece and India.

Two ex-students of Mount Gambier High School served as nurses in India. India was technically not a war zone but Australian nurses began serving in India in 1916. In the years that followed they were joined by others. In all, some 560 members of the AANS served in India, where their patients included Turkish prisoners of war. The religious and cultural demands they faced in India made their experience quite different from those faced in other locations:

Australian nurses in India were not confronted by the horror of nursing soldiers with severe battle wounds, shell-shock or the effects of gas. However, the staff of AANS

went to one of the more adverse climates to care for soldiers from all religious and ethnic persuasions, including Turkish prisoners of war.<sup>289</sup>

They had to work with Indian staff who did not speak English and treat patients who had totally different cultural attitudes regarding what was appropriate behaviour.

**600040 Lillian Mary McLELLAN (24, single, Presbyterian)<sup>290</sup>**

Lillian Mary McLellan was born on 1 February 1893 at Prahran, Victoria. Her father, David Esler McLellan, a storekeeper of Crouch Street, Mount Gambier, enrolled her at Mount Gambier High School in December 1906. She left the school on 16 September 1907, when the family left the district.<sup>291</sup> She completed her nursing training at Port Fairy Public Hospital in Victoria, and enlisted on 14 June 1917, naming her father David McLellan of Riversdale Road, Camberwell, Victoria, as her next of kin.

She embarked from Melbourne on the RMS 'Somali' on 30 June 1917, disembarked at Bombay on 30 July and was posted to Deccan War Hospital, Poona, where she worked until being transferred to the Station Hospital, Belgaum, on 9 December 1917. She was promoted to Sister on 30 June 1919.

On 15 October 1919 she embarked from Bombay on the 'Koenig Frederich August' for one month leave in England (perhaps hoping to catch up with her brother, Claude Esler McLellan who had enlisted in 1915, aged 19). She returned to Australia from Liverpool on the 'Megantic' (a sister ship to the 'Titanic' which had sunk in 1912) on 14 January 1920, disembarked in Melbourne on 20 February 1920, and was discharged on 31 March.

**701705 Ellen Katherine Dugdale MATHER (25, single, Roman Catholic)<sup>292</sup>**

Ellen Katherine Dugdale Mather was born at Hawker, SA, on 9 April 1892. Her father, James John Mather, railway ganger of Wehl Street, Mount Gambier, enrolled her at Mount Gambier High School in December 1906. She left the school on 20 December 1907,<sup>293</sup> completed three years nursing training at the Adelaide Children's Hospital and continued to work there before enlisting in the Australian Military Forces on 30 August 1917, naming her mother, Mrs Ellen Mather of Wehl Street, Mount Gambier, as her next of kin. On 8 November she transferred to the Australian Imperial Force as a member of the AANS and embarked as a staff nurse from Adelaide on the SS 'Canberra' on 14 November.

She disembarked at Bombay (Mumbai) on 11 December and was held in quarantine until 9 January 1918, when she was posted to the King George Hospital at Poona. She was treated for a bout of malaria in mid-March, for which she suffered recurrent attacks. She was transferred, first to the British General Hospital at Rawalpindi on 1 July 1919, and then the 43<sup>rd</sup> Indian General Hospital at Dera Ismail Khan a fortnight later.

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<sup>289</sup> Some idea of the unique difficulties they faced are detailed in Ruth Rae, "Reading between unwritten lines: Australian Army nurses in India 1916-19", *Journal of the Australian War Memorial*, 36, May 2002.

<sup>290</sup> NAA: B2455, MCLELLAN, L M

<sup>291</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 55.

<sup>292</sup> NAA: B2455, MATHER, ELLEN KATHERINE DUGDALE

<sup>293</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 12.

In late September she was transferred to Bombay where she embarked on the 'Plassy' on 1 October 1919 for return to Australia. She suffered from an attack of influenza for several days during the return voyage, before disembarking in Adelaide on 23 October. She was discharged 'medically unfit' on 27 November 1919.



*Ellen Katherine Dugdale Mather (Mt Gambier RSL)*

## **SOLDIERS WHO RETURNED**

**2155 George Edwin BAGGOTT** was born on 15 February 1898 at Robe, South Australia. He attended school at Compton Downs before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 7 October 1912 by his father, Archibald Ingram Baggott, who was the manager of the Border Preserve Works at Compton. He left the school on 6 March 1913.<sup>294</sup>

He enlisted in October 1915 (claimed to be 21, bank clerk, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Mrs Mary Ann Baggott of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin, and embarked from Adelaide on the 'Miltiades' in February 1916. Originally intended as a reinforcement to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, he was transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division Artillery in April 1916 and was shipped to France in June to be attached to the 11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade. He served on the Western Front until leaving for return to Australia on the 'Euripides' in March 1919. He was discharged

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<sup>294</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 254.

in June 1919. His obituary confirms the fact that he had been underage when he enlisted, being 'only 21 when the war ended'.<sup>295</sup>

**54864 Allan Edward BARTLETT** was born on 5 September 1900 at Mount Gambier. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 March 1914 by his father, William Bartlett, timber merchant, of Charles Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 20 November 1914.<sup>296</sup>

He enlisted in Melbourne on 26 March 1918 (19, timber cutter, single, Church of England) naming his father, William Bartlett, of Crouch Street, Mount Gambier as his next of kin. He embarked from Sydney as a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> (Victorian) General Service Reinforcements on 5 June 1918 and disembarked in England on 11 August 1918. He was initially attached to the 14<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion (during which time he was hospitalised with a groin injury in October and a bout of measles in November) and later the 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion, though without ever seeing combat. Perhaps because of this, he asked to be discharged in London in June 1919 and joined the Russian Relief Force as a private (193024) in the Machine Gun Corps. This force saw action in support of White Russian forces that attempted unsuccessfully to defeat the communist Red Army in the Russian Civil War, following the Russian Revolution of 1917.

**12590 Alan Finla BATTYE** was born at Mount Gambier on 29 July 1895. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 22 January 1907 by his father, William Battye, a tanner, of Bertha Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 1 April 1911.<sup>297</sup> Mr Hosking, high school teacher, made special mention of Alan for his academic achievements during the annual report at the Mount Gambier High School Speech Day held at the Temperance Hall in December 1910.<sup>298</sup> He was an active member of the local Methodist Church youth group and played tennis for the Methodist Tennis Club for a number of seasons before the war. Before enlisting he was employed at the local branch of the AMP Society.<sup>299</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 29 January 1916 (20, clerk, single, Methodist) naming his mother, Mrs Ellen Charity Battye of Bertha Street, Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Suevic' on 31 May 1916 attached to the 11<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and disembarked at Devonport in England on 21 July. He was sent to France on 24 November 1916 and served with the 11<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance on the Western Front until being gassed on 26 May 1918, following which he was evacuated to England for further treatment in early June. He was sent back to France in November 1918 but did not re-join his unit until 3 December 1918, by which time the war was over. He went on furlough to Brussels from 26 March to 6 April 1919 before being marched out to England in late April 1919 and leaving England for return to Australia on the 'Norman' on 4 July. He disembarked on 15 August and was discharged on 29 September 1919. He returned to Mount Gambier, arriving by train from Adelaide on 18

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<sup>295</sup> *Border Watch*, 10 June 1943, p.4.

<sup>296</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 281.

<sup>297</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 32.

<sup>298</sup> *Border Watch*, 24 December 1912, p.4.

<sup>299</sup> *Border Watch*, 5 February 1916, p.2.

August along with other servicemen, and was given an official welcome home at the Town Hall on arrival.<sup>300</sup>

**2927 Harold George BERKSHIRE** was born in Adelaide on 15 January 1898. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 10 October 1910 by his guardian Frederick G. Ball who was an assistant in a local chaff store.<sup>301</sup> Harold seems to have been a state ward. He was named as one of five boys operating a stall selling jelly and custard at a fundraising fete run by Mount Gambier Public School and Mount Gambier High School at the end of the school year in 1910. He left school on 31 December 1910.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 15 February 1916 (18, farm labourer, single, Church of England) naming his sister, Miss Florence Gertrude Berkshire, c/o State Children's Department, Adelaide, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Mooltan' on 24 August 1916, and was hospitalised with influenza soon after arriving in Egypt in late September. He was attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Training Regiment in late October 1916, attended several courses of instruction during December 1916 and February 1917, following which he was passed as a gunner. He was transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse on 24 March 1917 and promoted to Lance Corporal on 26 April. He served in Palestine until the end of the war, though his service was punctuated with frequent hospitalisations. He left Egypt for return to Australia on the 'Dongala' on 24 July 1919, disembarked on 23 August and was discharged on 15 October.

**2612 Horace Lionel BILLING** was born at Mount Gambier on 31 December 1891. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 30 May 1910 by his mother Clara Eleanor Billing of North Terrace, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 24 September 1910.<sup>302</sup> In reporting on the second annual Mount Gambier High School Speech Day in December 1910 the *Border Watch* made the following observation:

A special gold medal was awarded to Horace Billing, son of Mrs A. Billing, who passed the University Primary Examination after only three months study. The winner was absent in Adelaide, and his name was not mentioned at the speech day. The medal was given by the pupils and some other friends.<sup>303</sup>

After leaving school he secured a number of positions as an assistant teacher with the South Australian Education Department including Hummock's Hill (Whyalla) in 1911,<sup>304</sup> Thebarton in 1914,<sup>305</sup> and Unley in 1915.<sup>306</sup> He appeared in a list of teachers at a Physical Culture Camp run by the Defence Department at Glenelg who had qualified to teach physical training, marching drill, miniature rifle shooting, first aid, swimming, running and games.<sup>307</sup>

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<sup>300</sup> *Border Watch*, 19 August 1919, p.3.

<sup>301</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 153.

<sup>302</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 132.

<sup>303</sup> *Border Watch*, 24 December 1912, p.4.

<sup>304</sup> *Advertiser*, 14 January 1911, p.10.

<sup>305</sup> *Observer*, 24 January 1914, p.49.

<sup>306</sup> *Observer*, 3 July 1915, p.48.

<sup>307</sup> *Daily Herald*, 20 March 1914, p.8.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 6 March 1916 (24, school teacher, single, Baptist) naming his mother, Mrs Billing of Malvern, South Australia, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Port Melbourne' on 23 October 1916, disembarked at Devonport in England on 28 December and was attached to the 13<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion. He attended an NCO's school in February 1917.

He was sent overseas to France on 9 May 1917 and joined the 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 13 May, being promoted to Lance Corporal on 24 May, took part in the Battle of Messines from 7 to 12 June, and was then promoted to Corporal on 11 July 1917, taking part in the Battle of Polygon Wood on 26 September before being selected to attend Officers' Cadet Battalion in October 1917. He returned to England to complete the course, and was promoted to Lieutenant on 2 February 1918. He returned to France on 6 April and re-joined the 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 14 April but was wounded (shrapnel wound skull) on 24 April 1918 during the initial stages of the counter attack which recaptured Villers Bretonneux from the Germans. He returned to his unit on 12 June, was granted leave to England from 17 September to 2 October and attended the Australian Gas School from 13 to 19 October. As the war had ended he was granted leave to Rouen between 25 December 1918 and 27 January 1919 and was then given leave to complete courses in French at the Sorbonne in Paris and Italian at the University of Rome which was followed by an opportunity to visit various schools in Scotland. He left England for return to Australia on the 'Konigen Luise', disembarked on 2 February 1920 and was discharged on 4 April.

**3690 Roy BISHOP** was born at Mount Gambier on 29 June 1896. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 9 October 1908 by his father, Thomas Bishop<sup>308</sup>, a saddler, of Grey Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 31 March 1910.<sup>309</sup> Before enlisting he worked at Glover's Chemists in Commercial Street, Mount Gambier. He was given a farewell by friends at the Temperance Hall before leaving to enlist.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 10 August 1915 (19, assistant chemist, single, Church of England) naming his mother Mrs Sophy Bishop of Grey Street, Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Malwa' on 2 December 1915, arriving in Egypt a month later. He embarked at Alexandria in Egypt on the 'Saxonia' on 27 March 1916, disembarked at Marseilles in France on 3 April, joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 12 June and was in action at Pozieres in July. He was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal on 9 May 1917 and granted leave to England in August 1917, returning to his unit in early September. His subsequent service was punctuated with a series of hospitalisations, and a further promotion to Corporal on 2 January 1918, another round of leave to England in March, and in May he was evacuated to England suffering from trench fever. He left England on the 'Demosthenes' for return to Australia on 16 January 1919, disembarked on 28 February, and arrived back in Mount Gambier by train with several other servicemen on Wednesday 5 March 1919. Here he and his fellow soldiers were met by the band and transported by motor vehicles provided by the South-Eastern Motorists' Association to the Town Hall where they were greeted by an official

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<sup>308</sup> His father died in 1917 while Roy was on active service. *Border Watch*, 6 June 1917, p.2.

<sup>309</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 92.

party that included the Mayor G.E Truman and Colonel Daniel representing the Cheer Up Society.<sup>310</sup> He was discharged on 11 May.

**9708 Stanley Field BOOTHEY** was born at Mount Gambier on 11 March 1893. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, Jesse T. Boothey, a carpenter, of Bertha Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 25 November 1907.<sup>311</sup>

He enlisted at Mount Gambier on 20 March 1916 (24, architect, married, Presbyterian) naming his wife, Mrs Rose Eileen Grace Boothey, c/o Mrs Williams, Hyde Park, South Australia, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Suevic' on 31 May 1916, disembarked at Devonport in England on 11 November and was sent overseas to France 13 April 1917, where he joined the 11<sup>th</sup> Field Company Engineers on 26 April 1917. He was detached to 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Cookery School on 26 September 1917 but re-joined his unit on 11 October, was transferred to 11<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance on 11 November 1918 and promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal on 15 November 1918. He left Devonport, England, on the 'Rio Pardo' for return to Australia on 27 May 1919, disembarked at Adelaide 17 July, and returned to Mount Gambier by train on Monday 11 August 1919, receiving an official welcome from the Mayor, G.E. Truman and others.<sup>312</sup> He was discharged on 1 September.

**62298 John (Jack) BRAMMER** was born at Mount Gambier on 11 March 1898. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 27 September 1910 by his father, Johann Ernest Martin Brammer, a tailor of Wehl Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 20 December 1912.<sup>313</sup> He played cricket for the local junior competition. He had been employed at the local branch of the AMP Society but had transferred to the company's Adelaide office before he had enlisted.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 27 June 1918 (20, insurance clerk, single, Methodist) naming his father, Johann Ernest Martin Brammer of Helen Street, Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He was farewelled by about fifty friends at Hirth's Café in Mount Gambier on Tuesday 10 September 1918 as his long leave before embarkation was coming to an end. On this occasion he was presented with a safety razor and outfit as a farewell gift.<sup>314</sup> He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Boonah' on 22 October 1918 attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> General Service Reinforcements. He disembarked after return to Australia on 20 January 1919 and was discharged 12 February.

**888 Frederick Vernon BURCHELL** was born in Adelaide on 2 September 1892. He had attended primary school at Kingston but on 5 August 1908 was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School by his father, Frederic Neuman Burchell, a civil engineer, of Kingston. He left school on 23 December 1909.<sup>315</sup>

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<sup>310</sup> *Border Watch*, 7 March 1919, p.3.

<sup>311</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 31.

<sup>312</sup> *Border Watch*, 12 August 1919, p.3.

<sup>313</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 140.

<sup>314</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 September 1918, p.2.

<sup>315</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 71.

He enlisted in Sydney (where he had gone to complete his studies in wireless) on 5 October 1916 (24, wireless engineer, single, Church of England) naming his father, Frederick Newman Burchell of Beachport, South Australia, as his next of kin. He embarked from Melbourne on the 'Omrah' on 17 January 1917 attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Australian Flying Corps (AFC). He disembarked at Plymouth on 27 March 1917 and was marched into the AFC Depot at Perham Downs. On 2 April he was transferred to the 71<sup>st</sup> Squadron AFC and from 16 April to 24 June 1917 he was completing a course of instruction at Wireless School in South Farnborough. On 1 July he was appointed to the 61<sup>st</sup> Squadron.

He was posted overseas to France on 8 March 1918 and transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron AFC on 14 March 1918. After the war ended he was discharged from the AIF in London on 13 February 1919 to take up a position as staff engineer at the Wandsworth Electrical Manufacturing Company, Birmingham (his uncle's company). Following this he travelled independently, married during his travels, and returned to Beachport with a wife on Friday 1 August 1919.<sup>316</sup>

**1522 Reginald William CARR** was born at Mount Gambier on 17 December 1895. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 24 September 1909 by his father, Albert Edward Carr, a baker, of Commercial Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 31 March 1910.<sup>317</sup> In April 1915 he took part in a 'fancy dress hockey match' on Mount Gambier showground to raise money for the Red Cross.<sup>318</sup> He was farewelled at Mount Gambier Railway Station on 16 August 1915 along with two other recruits bound for Adelaide.<sup>319</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 24 August 1915 (19, grocer, single, Methodist) naming his mother, Eliza Carr of James Street, Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on 18 November 1915 on the 'Geelong' as a Private attached to the 12<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements to the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment, arriving in Egypt a month later. He joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse in late December 1915. He was transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Regiment on 25 February 1916 and was involved in defending the Nile Valley from pro-Turkish Senussi Arabs, protecting the Suez Canal and then advancing into the Sinai desert to turn back the advancing Turkish forces at Romani on 4 August 1916. He was transferred back to the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse on 13 September 1916 and took part in the capture of Turkish outposts at Maghdaba on 23 December 1916 and Rafa on 9 January 1917, the attacks on Gaza on 27 March and 19 April 1917 and the subsequent capture of Beersheba on 31 October 1917. He was sent to the rest camp at Port Said from 25 February to 10 March 1918 before being promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal on 18 March, and was involved in the Es Salt raid in May 1918. After the Turkish surrender he was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 26 April 1919, embarked at Kantara on the 'Oxfordshire' for return to Australia on 10 July 1919, disembarked on 10 August, and was discharged on 3 October.

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<sup>316</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 August 1919, p.4.

<sup>317</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 114.

<sup>318</sup> *Border Watch*, 24 April 1915, p.4.

<sup>319</sup> *Border Watch*, 18 August 1915, p.3.

**2115 Herbert Thomas CHESTERFIELD** was born at Mt Gambier on 1 July 1895. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 20 January 1908 by his father, Thomas Chesterfield, railway worker, of Glencoe. He left school on 7 April 1909.<sup>320</sup>

He enlisted at Horsham, Victoria, in February 1915 (19, farrier's floorman, single, Presbyterian) naming his father, Thomas Chesterfield of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin, and embarked from Melbourne on the 'Wandilla' in June 1915.

He joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion on Gallipoli on 5 August 1915, was in action at Lone Pine days later, but was evacuated suffering from bronchitis in October 1915. He underwent further training in Egypt before embarking from Alexandria in Egypt on the 'Ivernia' on 21 June 1916, disembarking at Marseilles in France on 30 June 1916. He fought at Pozieres before being transferred to the 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion in December 1916. He was involved in the Battle of Polygon Wood on 26 September 1917 was wounded by enemy shelling at Westhoek Ridge in Flanders on 12 October 1917. He re-joined the battalion on 11 December 1917, was granted leave to England from 28 February to 16 March 1916, and took part in the counterattack responsible for recapturing Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April 1918 and attacks near Peronne in early September before being wounded again on 1 October 1918 (right hand, severe) during a battalion advance near Bellicourt in northern France, evacuated to England on 4 October, and hospitalised until discharged to furlough on 28 October. He left England on the 'Nestor' for return to Australia in December 1918, and was discharged medically unfit in March 1919.

**2918 Henry James CORNISH** was born at Coleraine, Victoria, on 16 October 1893. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 20 January 1908 by his father Robert Alfred Cornish, a blacksmith, of Power Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 30 March 1909.<sup>321</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 19 October 1917 (24, railway fireman, widower with 1 child, Roman Catholic) naming his mother, Sarah Hannah Dunstan of Hackney, South Australia, as his next of kin. He embarked from Sydney on the 'Osterley' on 8 May 1918 as one of the Railway Unit Reinforcements, disembarking at Liverpool in England on 10 July 1918, was sent overseas to France on 21 September 1918 and taken on strength of the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Base General Railway Company several days later. On 1 May 1919 he was marched out to England for return to Australia. He left England on the 'Konigin Luise' on 21 June 1919, disembarked at Adelaide on 11 August and was discharged on 26 August.

**3036 Charles Lamplough CREED** was born at Hawker, South Australia, on 2 February 1899. He attended school at Strathdownie (south-west of Casterton in Victoria and near the South Australian-Victorian border) before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School by his father, John James Creed, a carpenter, of Yahl, on 18 January 1915. He left school in December 1915<sup>322</sup> and worked for the *Border Watch* until the time of his enlistment.<sup>323</sup>

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<sup>320</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 61.

<sup>321</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 63.

<sup>322</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 335.

<sup>323</sup> *Border Watch*, 19 August 1921, p.2.

He enlisted in Mount Gambier on 13 February 1917 (18, printer, single, Salvation Army) naming his father, John James Creed, of Yahl, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Borda' on 23 June 1918 and disembarked at Plymouth in England on 25 August, when he was found to be suffering from measles and so was hospitalised until 5 September. After being released he was attached to 11<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion before being sent overseas to France on 18 December 1917, joining the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion on 24 December. He was involved with the battalion in contributing to the stopping of the German Spring Offensive at Villers-Bretonneux in April 1918 but was admitted to hospital on 27 June, evacuated to England on 23 July with what was initially thought to be influenza and broncho-pneumonia but later diagnosed as tuberculosis. He left England on the 'Kanowna' on 5 January 1919, disembarked on 7 March, spent seven days in quarantine on Torrens Island before being transferred to Bedford Park Sanatorium for ongoing treatment.

On 4 April 1919 he arrived back in Mount Gambier for a short visit and was welcomed at the Mount Gambier Railway Station by the Mayor and the Reception Committee before being transported along with three other returned men by cars provided by the Motorists' Association to a more formal reception at the Town Hall which was attended by a crowd of about a thousand.<sup>324</sup> He was discharged 'medically unfit' on 23 May 1921 and died on 18 August 1921.

**4241 Alfred Roy CRIDDLE** was born at Wallaroo, South Australia, on 7 February 1896. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 11 October 1910 by his father, Samuel Richard Criddle, gaol keeper, of Wehl Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 15 December 1911.<sup>325</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 6 January 1916 (19, South Australian Railways operator, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Mrs Augusta Criddle of Gladstone, South Australia, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Afric' on 7 November 1916, disembarked at Plymouth in England on 9 January 1917, and was first attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, before being transferred to the Signals and Engineers Depot on 22 September 1917 and sent to France on 14 May 1918. Initially attached to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on 21 May 1918, he was marched out to the Australian Corps Depot on 11 June 1918, hospitalised with scabies from 20 to 24 June 1918, and finally transferred to 5<sup>th</sup> Division Signals Company on 5 July 1918. He attended the Australian Corps Central School from 6 January 1919, before leaving England for return to Australia on 23 July 1919 on the 'Main', disembarking on 5 October 1919, and was discharged on 21 November.

**9807 Walter Thomas CROUCH** was born at Quorn, South Australia, on 11 November 1893. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, Alfred Charles Crouch, a blacksmith, of North Terrace, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 22 August 1908.<sup>326</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 15 December 1915 (22, blacksmith, married, Roman Catholic) naming his wife, Alexandrina Victoria Crouch, of North Terrace, Mount Gambier, as his next

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<sup>324</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 April 1919, p.3.

<sup>325</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 180.

<sup>326</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 46.

of kin. He was hospitalised as a result of nasal trouble for much of the time between 31 January and 22 June 1916 and was discharged 'medically unfit' on 13 July 1916 without having embarked for overseas service.

**18776 Frederick Lester DANIEL** was born at Mount Gambier on 5 May 1897. He had left Mount Gambier with his father and mother in June 1910.<sup>327</sup> His mother had died early in 1911<sup>328</sup> and his father had sent him back to Mount Gambier, placing Frederick under the care of his uncle. His father died at Ararat in Victoria in September 1915.<sup>329</sup> Frederick was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 12 June 1911 by his uncle, Frederick H. Daniel, a solicitor, of Elizabeth Street, Mount Gambier, having previously attended school in Victoria. He left school on 28 June 1912.<sup>330</sup>

He enlisted in Mount Gambier on 22 April 1917 (19, chemist's assistant, single, Church of England) naming his sister, Miss Margaret Lester Daniel, c/o his guardian Colonel Frederick Henry Daniel of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin, having previously been rejected in September 1916 because of flat feet. He embarked from Melbourne on the 'Ulysses' on 22 December 1917, disembarked at Suez in Egypt on 16 January 1918, re-embarked at Port Said on 24 January and travelled via Taranto, eventually disembarking at Southampton in England on 15 February. He was then attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Army Medical Corps Training Depot. In July he was hospitalised with tonsillitis.

On 4 October 1918 he was sent to France, joining the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian General Hospital at Wimereux briefly before being transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Ambulance. He was hospitalised with a hernia on 5 December 1918 and evacuated to England on 22 December. He left Portland in England for return to Australia on the 'Nevassa' on 5 March 1919, and disembarked on 25 April. He arrived back in Mount Gambier on Monday 16 June and was given a public welcome home at the Town Hall, before being discharged from the AIF on 28 June 1919.

**302 Thomas Llewellyn DAVIES** was born at Millicent, South Australia, on 10 June 1894. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, Thomas Davies, a foundryman of Railway Terrace, Mount Gambier. He left school on 1 November 1907.<sup>331</sup>

He enlisted on 15 December 1914 (22, labourer, single, Methodist) naming his mother, M.A. Davies of Rosaville, Mount Gambier, as his next of kin, having previously been rejected in August because his chest measurement had been too small. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Geelong' on 31 May 1915 as a Private attached to B Company of the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

He served on Gallipoli from September 1915 when the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion was sent there and disembarked at Alexandria in Egypt on 10 January 1916 after the evacuation of Gallipoli. He embarked from Egypt for the Western Front on 15 March and disembarked at Marseilles in France on 21 March. He was involved in the battalion's attack at Pozieres in late July and early

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<sup>327</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 June 1910, p.2.

<sup>328</sup> *Border Watch*, 15 February 1911, p.3.

<sup>329</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 September 1915, p.2.

<sup>330</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 186.

<sup>331</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 44.

August 1916 and after a visit to England on leave from 7 October 1916, he re-joined his unit on 19 October.

On 18 April 1917 he went absent without leave for several months and was subsequently court martialled for desertion, found guilty, and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment with hard labour. When the war ended he was discharged from prison, the remainder of his sentence being suspended. He was marched out to England on 7 January 1919, left England for return to Australia on the 'Ceramic' on 25 January, disembarked on 6 March 1919, and returned to Mount Gambier on Tuesday 18 March by train with another soldier where he was publicly welcomed home at the Town Hall<sup>332</sup>. He was discharged from the AIF on 6 May 1919.

**37113 Alexander Hubert Hawdon DAVISON** was born in Adelaide on 28 October 1896. He had attended Mr Carozzi's private school in Mount Gambier before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 26 January 1910 by his father, John Hawdon Davison, a barrister, of Evelyn Street, Mount Gambier. He left Mount Gambier High School on 30 December 1910,<sup>333</sup> then enrolled at St Peter's College in Adelaide<sup>334</sup> before joining the South Australian Government Survey Department.<sup>335</sup>

He enlisted at Unley, South Australia, on 30 January 1917 (20, surveyor, single, Church of England) naming his father, John Hubert Hawdon Davison of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin, having previously been rejected as a result of his eyesight. He embarked from Melbourne on the 'Port Sydney' on 9 November 1917, disembarked at Suez in Egypt on 12 December, re-embarked from Alexandria in Egypt on 18 December 1917 and travelled via Taranto, eventually disembarking at Southampton on 4 January 1918.

He was hospitalised for several weeks during March in England with measles before being sent to France on 15 April 1918, and joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Division Artillery Column on 24 April. He was marched out to England in February 1919 and there was granted leave to attend surveying school at Southampton from 13 March to 30 June 1919. He left England on the 'Norman' for return to Australia, disembarked on 15 August 1919, returned to Mount Gambier by train in late August where he received a public welcome home,<sup>336</sup> and was discharged from the AIF on 7 September.

**56072 Frederick Charles ELLIOTT** was born at Mount Gambier on 26 October 1899. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 9 October 1911 by his father, Charles Fred Elliott, labourer, of Commercial Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 27 September 1912.<sup>337</sup>

He enlisted at Mount Gambier on 13 March 1918 (18, labourer, married, Presbyterian) naming his wife, Mrs A.M. Elliott of Mount Gambier as his next of kin. He embarked from Melbourne on the 'Marathon' on 23 July 1918, disembarked at London on 27 September 1918 and was attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion.

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<sup>332</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 March 1919, p.3.

<sup>333</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 129.

<sup>334</sup> *Border Watch*, 12 July 1913, p.4.

<sup>335</sup> *Border Watch*, 10 January 1914, p.2.

<sup>336</sup> *Border Watch*, 29 August 1919, p.4.

<sup>337</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 193.

He was sent to France on 22 November 1918 and joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Division Artillery Column on 4 December. He embarked from France for England in early May 1919, and left England for return to Australia on the 'Suevic' in July, disembarked on 7 September and was discharged on 23 September. He was given a welcome home at the Compton Downs School on Friday 10 October 1919.<sup>338</sup>

**20545 Noel Augustine FOORD** was born in Adelaide on 26 July 1899. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 9 October 1911 by his father, Edwin James Foord, a telegraphist, of Wehl Street, Mount Gambier. He left school in May 1914<sup>339</sup> and joined the E.S. & A. Bank in Mount Gambier in early June.<sup>340</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 15 January 1918 (18, bank clerk, single, Methodist) naming his father, Edwin James Foord of Forestville, South Australia, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Gaika' on 6 August 1918 as part of Australian Medical Corps General Reinforcements, disembarked at London on 13 October 1918 and was attached to the Australian Army Medical Corps Training Depot. He was hospitalised with tonsillitis from 6 to 12 March 1919, attached to 6<sup>th</sup> Sanitation Section Australian Medical Corps Details on 18 April 1919, and left England on 18 December 1919 for return to Australia on the 'Konigin Luise' as one of its nursing staff, disembarked on 2 February 1920, and was discharged from the AIF on 26 February.

**4051 Clifton Ronald GILLETT** was born in Mount Gambier on 18 January 1893. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, Thomas Gillett, a coachbuilder, of Doughty Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 13 June 1908<sup>341</sup> and left the district early in 1912 to join the staff of the Adelaide branch of the E.S. and A. Bank and was presented with a safety razor by the St Andrew's Tennis Club (which he had captained for the previous two years) on his departure.<sup>342</sup> He moved to Western Australia in 1913 to join his brother in business at Quairading.<sup>343</sup>

He enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia, on 21 October 1915 (22, salesman, single, Church of England) naming his brother, Adrian Brown Gillett of Quairading, Western Australia, as his next of kin. He embarked from Fremantle on the 'Ulysses' on 1 April 1916. On 25 April 1916 he was promoted to the rank of Corporal. After arrival in England he was attached to a Training Battalion and qualified as a non-commissioned officer at a course of instruction at Tidsworth.<sup>344</sup> On 16 November 1916 he was sent to France, reverting to the rank of private at this time. He joined the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 14 February 1917 and was promoted to Lance Corporal on 31 March.

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<sup>338</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 October 1919, p.3.

<sup>339</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 195.

<sup>340</sup> *Victor Harbor Times*, 10 August 1962, p.138.

<sup>341</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 30.

<sup>342</sup> *Border Watch*, 24 February 1912, p.3.

<sup>343</sup> *Western Mail*, 20 November 1930, p.28.

<sup>344</sup> His mother received a letter from him describing his visit to Scotland before being sent to France. *Border Watch*, 14 February 1917, p.4.

He was sent to England to an Officer's Cadet Battalion in May 1917, promoted to second lieutenant on 1 September 1917 and sent back to France on 18 September. On 28 September 1917, the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion camp at Reninghelst in Belgium was bombed by enemy planes, killing 3 and wounding 14, including Gillett (left hand and left leg, compound fracture tibia). He was evacuated to England on 10 October and in January 1918 his left leg was amputated. On 24 August 1918 he left England on the 'City of Karachi' for return to Australia, disembarking on 24 October 1918.

**972a Harold Lindsay GREEN** was born in Adelaide on 7 April 1893. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 20 January 1908 by his father, John Green, a mason, of Church Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 1 August 1908.<sup>345</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 24 October 1916 (23, motor mechanic, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Mrs Emma Green of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin, having previously been rejected because of "defective chest". He completed a course at the signal school in December 1916 before embarking from Melbourne on the 'Omrah' on 17 January 1917 and disembarked at Plymouth in England on 27 March 1917. He was attached to the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) Depot at Perham Downs and then to 71 Squadron AFC at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham.

He was sent overseas to France on 16 December 1917. From 1 January 1918 his squadron was designated 4<sup>th</sup> Squadron AFC. He was sent back to England in March 1919 and left England on the 'Kaiser-I-Hind' on 6 May 1919 for return to Australia, disembarking on 14 June and being discharged on 22 July.

**837/2887/2419 George St Clair GRIFFIN** was born in Adelaide on 30 November 1893. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, George James Griffin, a commercial traveller, of Helen Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 27 August 1907 when his family left the district.<sup>346</sup>

He enlisted (as regimental number 837) on 11 August 1914 (20, ship chandler storeman, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Mrs Emily Pleasance Griffin of Neutral Bay, Sydney, New South Wales, as his next of kin. He embarked on 19 August 1914 for service with the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the New Guinea Expeditionary Force. He was discharged on 18 January 1915 'time expired'.

He subsequently enlisted in the AIF (as regimental number 2887) on 24 July 1915, but was discharged 'medically unfit' on 24 December 1915.

He later re-enlisted (as regimental number 2419) on 6 June 1916 and embarked from Sydney on 14 September 1916 on the 'Mashobra'. He disembarked at Plymouth in England on 24 December 1916 and was sent to France soon after where he joined the 53<sup>rd</sup> Battalion but was hospitalised on 5 March 1917 with malaria and invalided to England on 20 March. He returned to France in late November 1917 and re-joined the 53<sup>rd</sup> Battalion on 19 December but was hospitalised with malaria again on 6 March 1918 and invalided to England on 13 May. He was

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<sup>345</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 62

<sup>346</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 36.

on furlough from 28 June to 12 July 1918, attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Division Signal School for a course of instruction in late October 1918 before leaving England on the 'Kashmir' for return to Australia on 9 March 1919, and spent a week in the ship's hospital in March 1919. He disembarked on 2 May and was discharged on 9 June.

**1665 Colin HAY** was born at Mount Gambier on 18 May 1895. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 9 October 1910 by his father James Hay, a labourer, of Bertha Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 31 December 1908.<sup>347</sup>

He enlisted in Melbourne on 26 February 1916 (21, baker, single, Protestant) naming his father James Hay of Kongorong, South Australia, as his next of kin. He embarked from Melbourne on the 'Ascanius' on 27 May 1916 and disembarked at Devonport in England on 18 July 1916 where he was attached to the 10<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion.

He was sent to France on 12 December 1917, joining the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 19 December but was transferred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Trench Mortar Battery on 22 January 1918. Wounded at Heilly in France on 28 March 1918 (compound fracture left ankle), he was invalided to England dangerously ill on 13 April where his leg was amputated. He was on furlough from 24 August to 7 September 1918. He left England for return to Australia on the 'Bahia Castillo', disembarked on 17 April 1920, and was discharged from the AIF on 19 June. He returned to Mount Gambier on Friday 11 March 1921, having 'arrived in Melbourne from England some eight months ago.'<sup>348</sup>

**1669 Keith Graham HAY** was born at Mount Gambier on 8 March 1897. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 27 September 1910 by his father, James Hay, a drover, of Chute Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 13 October 1911.<sup>349</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 27 October 1915 (18, farmer, single, Presbyterian) naming his father, James Hay of Kongorong, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Warilda' on 10 February 1916 as a reinforcement for the Light Horse. He was transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> Division Artillery in 1 April 1916 and taken on strength of the 14<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade but was hospitalised in May and June of 1916 for observation and subsequently returned to Australia on the 'Clan McGillivray' for discharge, leaving England on 15 August 1916. He and Trooper Reginald Buchanan Gaillard<sup>350</sup> returned to Mount Gambier by train on Monday 21 August. A crowd of several hundred were at the railway station, including the official party led by Mayor Renfrey and Colonel Howland along with the Mount Gambier Band and the Salvation Army Band, but Hay managed to slip away without being noticed. He was discharged on 4 February 1917 as 'medically unfit' as a result of a diseased heart.

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<sup>347</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 84.

<sup>348</sup> *Border Watch*, 15 March 1921, p.2.

<sup>349</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 142.

<sup>350</sup> Gaillard was born in Mount Gambier and enlisted at Morphettville, SA, on 24 August 1914. He embarked from Adelaide on 22 October 1914 on the 'Port Lincoln' (28, men's mercer, single, Church of England) attached to B Squadron of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse. He served on Gallipoli and suffered several bouts of illness before being returned to Australia for discharge in late 1916.

**1931 Reginald Alexander Bertram HAY** was born at Mount Gambier on 4 October 1895. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 20 January 1908 by his father, John Hay, a farmer, of Wyatt Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 16 February 1909.<sup>351</sup> In 1911 he was listed as having passed the telegraph messengers' examination.<sup>352</sup>

He enlisted at Keswick, South Australia, on 19 May 1915 (19, postal assistant, single, Presbyterian) naming his mother, Mrs Ruth Hay of Wyatt Street, Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on 21 September 1915 on the 'Star of England' and joined the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion briefly in Egypt on 12 January 1916 before being transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Signal Company on 26 February. Some of his service details appear to be missing from his National Archives file but it is recorded that he served at Pozieres, Flers, Bapaume, Bullecourt and Passchendaele, which were the main actions involving Australians throughout 1916 and 1917 on the Western Front. He left England from Liverpool for return to Australia on the 'Khyber' on 31 March 1919, disembarked at Adelaide on 9 May and was discharged on 15 July.

**21473 John Milner HOSKING** was born at Bunbury, Western Australia, on 15 September 1899 to Ebenezer and Jessie Hosking. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1914 by his father, Ebenezer Hosking, storekeeper, of Commercial Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 31 July 1914.<sup>353</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 7 July 1917 (18, clerk, single, Methodist) naming his father, Ebenezer Hosking of Florence Street, Fullarton, as his next of kin. He was attached to the Australian Army Medical Corps on 12 September 1917 and on 26 July 1918 was detailed to No.5 Sea Transport Section and entrained for Sydney for embarkation. He embarked from there on the 'Gaika' on 30 July 1918, disembarked at London on 13 October 1918 and was attached to the Australian Army Medical Corps Training Depot until leaving England on the 'Suevic' for return to Australia. He disembarked on 5 January 1919 and was discharged on 27 January.

**2570 William Robert HUNT** was born at Mount Gambier on 11 July 1891.<sup>354</sup> He attended school at Kalangadoo before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, a sheep farmer of Kalangadoo. He left school on 29 November 1907. The (Adelaide) *Chronicle* ran the following story in November 1907:

The Vansittart Scholarship at Mount Gambier, which gives three years' free tuition, with board and lodging, at St Peter's College, has been awarded to William Robert Hunt, son of Mr Thomas Hunt, farmer, of Kalangadoo. He was 16 years old last July.<sup>355</sup>

He enlisted at Keswick, South Australia, on 31 May 1915 (23, articled law clerk, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Mrs Elizabeth Sarah Hunt of Kalangadoo, as his next of kin.

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<sup>351</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 57.

<sup>352</sup> *Narracoorte Herald*, 1 December 1911, p.2.

<sup>353</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 287.

<sup>354</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 27.

<sup>355</sup> *Chronicle*, 23 November 1907, p.40.

His enlistment complicated his career aspirations, which prompted the (Adelaide) *Register* to run the following story:

In the matter of William Robert Hunt, articled clerk, Mr Angus Parsons appeared, and moved that the applicant should be exempt from the conditions of Rule 4, which, he explained, provided that an articled clerk should not engage in any other pursuit during the currency of his articles. Hunt had attended the law lectures at the University of Adelaide for four academic years. He was articled on April 19, 1914, and in May last he enlisted as a volunteer for active service in the war, and was now at the front. Mr Parsons also asked that the time during which he should be absent from the State might count as time served in his articles. The motion was granted.

He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Morea' on 26 August 1915 and joined the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion on Mudros on 4 December. He joined the troops being evacuated from Gallipoli and disembarked at Alexandria in Egypt on 6 January. He was transferred to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on 1 March 1916, promoted to Corporal in April, and hospitalised in May with appendicitis. It was decided to return him to Australia for a change following his appendix operation and he left Suez on 5 July 1916 on the 'Karoola', disembarked in Australia on 4 August and was discharged on 22 August. A report in the (Adelaide) *Mail* in 1919 relates something of his transition to civilian life, picking up where he had left off:

The Supreme Court on Saturday morning dealt with a number of applications for admission to the Bar ... The admission of Mr William Robert Hunt was moved by Mr Angus Parsons, K.C. Mr Hunt served his articles with Messrs Glynn, Parsons & McEwin, and had been on active service for over a year. He was educated at St Peter's College

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**6410 Horace Eldred JARRAD** was born at Mount Gambier on 3 November 1893.<sup>356</sup> He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his mother, Elizabeth Jarrad, of the Hundred of Blanche, near Mount Gambier. He left school on 22 December 1909.

On Saturday 10 September 1915 he was farewelled by 'fellow employees at the *South Eastern Star* who presented him with a wrist watch and the proprietor, Mr Alf Clark, gave him a set of brushes' and left Mount Gambier by train on Monday 12 September to go into camp.<sup>357</sup> He enlisted in Adelaide on 15 September 1915 (20, monoline operator, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Mrs Elizabeth Jarrad, c/o GPO Mount Gambier, as his next of kin, and embarked from Sydney on the 'Armada' on 20 March 1916, disembarking at Alexandria in Egypt on 24 April. He embarked again at Alexandria on 28 May on the 'Briton'.

He was sent to France on 6 August 1916 and joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Company Engineers on 22 September 1916. He was granted leave to England from 19 October to 1 November 1917, hospitalised on 26 February 1918 with nasal catarrh and evacuated to England on 14 March. He was discharged to furlough from 26 March to 9 April, married 24-year-old Agnes Violet Saltain at St Andrews Church, Bournemouth on 26 June, and returned to France on 27 August, re-joining his unit on 2 September. He was hospitalised with impetigo (a bacterial infection

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<sup>356</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 48.

<sup>357</sup> *Border Watch*, 15 September 1915, p.2.

better known today as 'school sores') from 14 to 23 October. In March 1919 he left France for England and left England with his wife and child on the 'Indarra' on 12 July 1919, disembarking on 3 September and was discharged on 27 October. He and other soldiers were tendered a welcome home at Compton Downs Public School in 1919, on which occasion his new wife was presented with a set of kitchen utensils by the Compton Red Cross.<sup>358</sup>

**971 Thorwald Emil Lear KOOK** was born at Mount Gambier on 20 May 1896.<sup>359</sup> He attended Mount Gambier Grammar School before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 25 January 1911 by his father, Peter J.C. Kook, a photographer, of Chute Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 15 November 1911.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 24 August 1915 (19, telegraphist, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Mrs Ada Kook of Hyde Park, South Australia, as his next of kin, having previously been rejected because of his teeth. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Afric' on 9 June 1916 and disembarked at Marseilles in France on 20 July 1916.

After a brief time in England he was sent overseas to France with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion on 25 November 1916. He was hospitalised with scabies on 11 February 1917, re-joining his unit on 20 February and was involved in major actions at Messines in June and near Passchendaele in October. He was granted leave to Paris from 19 to 29 December 1917, was detached to Brigade School from 7 to 21 January 1918, on leave to England from 21 February to 10 March 1918, and transferred to the Australian Corps Signal Company on 8 April. He was hospitalised with trench fever on 3 June and evacuated to England on 12 June, returned to France on 11 November 1918 (the day of the armistice) and re-joined the Australian Corps Signal Company on 15 November. He left France for England in March 1919 and left England for return to Australia on the 'Borda' on 11 May. He disembarked on 23 June and was discharged on 8 August.

**3792 Alexander James LEAMEY** was born at Mount Gambier on 12 August 1896.<sup>360</sup> He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 15 October 1910 by his father, David Francis Leamey, a labourer, of John Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 15 December 1911.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 12 August 1915 (18, grocer's assistant, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Elizabeth Margaret Leamey of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Malwa' on 2 December 1915 as a reinforcement for the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion and arrived in Egypt about a month later, embarking again at Alexandria in Egypt on 29 March 1916 and disembarking at Marseilles in France on 4 April.

He was detailed to a Machine Gun School in France on 30 June 1916 and then transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun Company on 2 August 1916. He was wounded (shrapnel wound head) on 12 April 1917 (apparently the only casualty that day according to the unit war diary) and evacuated to England on 16 April. He was discharged to furlough from 21 May to 5 June and returned to France on 18 October, re-joining his unit on 22 October. In 1918 his unit became

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<sup>358</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 October 1919, p.3.

<sup>359</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 182.

<sup>360</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 181.

part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Battalion. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on 23 June 1918, went on leave to Paris from 12 to 22 October 1918. He left England for return to Australia on 2 March 1919 on the 'Derbyshire', disembarked on 20 April, was welcomed home at Yahl in May<sup>361</sup> and was discharged on 12 June.

**20559 Murray Leslie LAWRENCE** was born at Mount Gambier on 28 June 1898 and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 27 September 1910 by his father, Harry Lawrence, saddler, of Hart Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 31 July 1914<sup>362</sup> and worked for Mr G. Lewis's furniture and upholstery business in Mount Gambier.

He enlisted at Mount Gambier on 27 November 1917 (19, upholsterer, married with one child, Presbyterian) naming his wife, Mrs Irma Lawrence of Millicent as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Gaika' on 6 August 1918, disembarked at London on 13 October and was attached to the Army Medical Corps Training Depot. He was hospitalised with influenza from 14 November to 13 December. He was also hospitalised for six weeks during 1919. He left England for return to Australia on the 'Paranga' on 8 September 1919, disembarked on 25 October and was discharged on 11 November.

**4322 Arthur Pitman MILLHOUSE** was born at Mount Gambier on 27 July 1894.<sup>363</sup> He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School by his father, Robert Millhouse, a blacksmith, of Commercial Street, Mount Gambier, on 20 January 1908. He left the school on 22 December 1909.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 30 October 1916 (22, painter, married, Methodist) naming his wife, Mrs Polly Millhouse of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Afric' on 7 November 1916, disembarked at Plymouth in England on 9 January 1917 and was attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion.

He was sent overseas to France on 5 April 1917 and joined the 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on 12 April, participating in the Battle of Polygon Wood in Belgium on 26 September 1917 before being hospitalised with cellulitis in the right hand from 18 to 30 October 1917, re-joining his unit on 5 November. He was hospitalised with trench fever on 18 January 1918, evacuated to England on 20 February and discharged on 5 April. He returned to France on 19 June, passing through the Australian Divisional Base Depot at Havre before re-joining his unit on 25 June. He was granted leave to England from 4 to 22 February 1919 and on his return was seconded to the 5<sup>th</sup> Division Salvage Unit from 26 February to 15 April. He left France in May 1919 and departed England for return to Australia on 5 July 1919 on board the 'Port Melbourne'. He disembarked on 18 August and was discharged on 25 September.

**51827 Jack Eric MOODY** was born at Albany, Western Australia, on 20 May 1899. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 7 October 1912 by his father, John H. Moody, hotelkeeper at Mac's Hotel, Bay Road, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 6 March 1913.<sup>364</sup>

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<sup>361</sup> *Border Watch*, 6 May 1919, p.3.

<sup>362</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 147.

<sup>363</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 60.

<sup>364</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 247.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 19 January 1918 (18, clerk, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Edith Sarah Moody of the Freemason's Hotel, Broken Hill, as his next of kin, his father having died at Broken Hill on 7 June 1917. He embarked from Sydney on the 'Euripides' on 1 May 1918, transferred to the 'Teutonic' at New York on 14 June, disembarked at Liverpool in England on 2 July and was attached to the 9<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, finally being allotted as a reinforcement to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, and sent overseas to France on 22 September 1918.

He joined the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion in France on 27 September. He was hospitalised with influenza from 7 to 16 December. He was hospitalised again on 29 January 1919 suffering from dermatitis and evacuated to England on 3 March, was discharged to furlough after which he reported to the Australian Army Service Corps Training Depot on 15 April, and was granted leave from 6 May to 6 August to work as a motor mechanic, though this was cancelled on 1 July. After a short period of pre-embarkation leave, he left England on board the 'Argyllshire' on 2 August, disembarking on 18 September and was discharged on 11 October.

**1422 Harry MORRIS** was born at Mount Gambier on 25 August 1895<sup>365</sup> and attended Mount Gambier Public School and Compton Downs Public School before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 5 November 1908 by his father, David Morris, a labourer, of Bertha Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 31 December 1908.

He enlisted in July 1915 (19 hairdresser, single, Presbyterian) naming his mother, Mrs Emma Morris of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin, having previously been rejected as his chest measurement had apparently been too small, and embarked from Adelaide on the 'Benalla' in October 1915. He joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse in Egypt and was involved in the advance across the Sinai desert, the capture of the Turkish outpost at Maghdaba on 23 December 1916, the capture of Rafa on 9 January 1917, the two failed attacks on Gaza in March and April 1917, the capture of Beersheba on 31 October 1917, the subsequent advance on Jerusalem, and the Es Salt raid in May 1918, before suffering a bout of malaria in August. He left Egypt on the 'Oxfordshire' for return to Australia in July 1919, disembarked on 10 August, and was discharged from the AIF in October 1919.

**3428 Glanville Montague McADAM** was born at Quorn, South Australia, on 17 May 1898 and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 9 October 1911 by his father John McAdam, ganger, of Commercial Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 17 December 1912.<sup>366</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 20 May 1916 (21, clerk with the South Australian Railways, single, Presbyterian) naming his mother, Isabelle McAdam of Tantanoola, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Seang Bee' on 10 February 1917, disembarked at Devonport in England on 2 May 1917 and after spending some time with the 12<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion went overseas to France on 25 September 1917. He joined the 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion near Passchendaele in Belgium on 6 October. The 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion played a significant role in bringing the German Spring Offensive to a halt in early April by successfully blocking the main road into Amiens.

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<sup>365</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 95.

<sup>366</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 203.

For his role in the action McAdam was awarded the Military Medal for his work on 5 April 1918. His commendation reads:

For gallantry and devotion to duty at Albert on 5<sup>th</sup> April P[riva]te. McAdam carried out his duties as a linesman continuously though always exposed to fire and when the barrage fell was tireless and fearless in keeping up communications successfully. His work throughout was exceptionally cool and courageous.

He was wounded (shrapnel wound face and right arm) on 8 August 1918, the first day of the Battle of Amiens, and evacuated to England on 11 August. He was discharged from hospital on 18 December and went on furlough till 2 January 1919. He left England for return to Australia aboard the 'Port Napier' on 12 May 1919, disembarked on 29 June, returned to Mount Gambier in early July where he received an official welcome,<sup>367</sup> and was discharged on 6 August.

**1448 Donald Neil MacGILLIVRAY** was born at Mount Gambier on 12 September 1896<sup>368</sup> and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 24 September 1909 by his mother, Sophie Campbell MacGillivray of Penola Road, Mount Gambier. He left school on 28 June 1912 and entered the Commonwealth Bank.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 16 September 1915 (19, bank clerk, single, Presbyterian) naming his mother, Sophie Campbell MacGillivray of Wehl Street, Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Geelong' on 18 November 1915, arriving in Egypt a month later. He joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse on 12 January 1916, but was transferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse when it was reformed on 22 February 1916. Throughout the second half of 1916 his unit was involved mainly in patrolling the Sinai. He was hospitalised with diphtheria from 25 October to 7 December and from 16 January 1917 with myocarditis. The military authorities decided soon after to send him back to Australia for a 6 month change as a result of "irritable heart post diphtheria" and he embarked on the 'Willochra' from Suez on 8 March 1917. He disembarked on 27 April 1917 and was discharged on 1 June.

**313 John Robert MacGILLIVRAY** was born at Lake Mundi, Victoria, in April 1894<sup>369</sup> and attended Sutton Town Public School before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his mother, Sophie Campbell MacGillivray of Penola Road, Mount Gambier. He left school on 31 December 1908.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 22 October 1914 (21, bank clerk, single, Presbyterian) naming his mother, Sophie Campbell MacGillivray of Wehl Street, Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Melbourne on the 'Karroo' on 11 February 1915 and joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse on Gallipoli on 16 May 1915, was evacuated to the Hospital Ship "Delta" on 16 October 1915 suffering from enteric and hospitalised at Alexandria on 20 October. Military authorities eventually decided to return him to Australia and he embarked from Suez on the 'Wandilla'

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<sup>367</sup> *Register*, 9 July 1919, p.8.

<sup>368</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 112.

<sup>369</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 45.

on 13 December 1915, disembarked on 12 January 1916, discharged to Light Horse Base Company on 29 March 1916 and was finally discharged 'medically unfit' on 30 November 1916.

**17061 Grier James PANNELL** was born at Mount Gambier on 7 June 1896. He attended Sutton Town Public School before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 6 September 1909 by his father Frank Pannell, a butcher, of Penola Road, Mount Gambier. He left school on 24 June 1910.<sup>370</sup> The *Border Watch* reported him having passed the telegraphists' examination, the telegraph messengers' examination, and finally being appointed as a postal assistant.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 16 October 1916 (20, grocer's assistant, single, Presbyterian) naming his mother, Mrs Margaret Jane Pannell of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Omrah' on 19 January 1917, disembarked at Devonport in England on 27 March and was attached to the Signals Section Training Depot before being sent overseas to France on 14 May 1917 where he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Signals Company on 24 May. He was awarded the Military Medal for his work on 4 October 1917. His commendation reads:

On the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, in the attack on the Passchendaele Ridge, Sapper James Grier Pannell and [592] Sapper [Harry Franklin] Broadbent with a carrying party of one n.c.o. and six other ranks, took an amplifier station forward. The party was caught in the enemy barrage, rendering the whole of the carrying party casualties. Sapper Pannell with Sapper Broadbent placed the apparatus in a safe place and returned through the barrage and procured fresh carriers. Then returning again to the apparatus, installed it in a position and established communication. This man remained at his station in the forward area for ten days, maintaining communication under great difficulties.

He went on leave to Paris from 1 to 5 March 1918 and to England from 8 to 24 March 1918, and was hospitalised for several weeks from 9 May 1918. He re-joined his unit on 25 May. After the armistice he went on leave to Paris again from 11 to 20 January 1919 before leaving France for England in March 1919, departing England from Devonport on the 'Cluny Castle' for return to Australia on 23 March 1919, disembarking on 21 May and was discharged on 19 June.

**682a Alan Charles PLATE** was born at Mount Gambier on 8 May 1896 and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 24 September 1909 by his father, Albert John Plate, of Wehl Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 26 September 1910.<sup>371</sup> A report in the *Border Watch* in 1913 described him as a ledger-keeper in the Commercial Bank at Mount Gambier.<sup>372</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 21 November 1916 (20, clerk, single, Presbyterian) naming his mother, Mrs Matilda Francis Plate of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Melbourne on the 'Suevic' on 21 June 1917, disembarked at Liverpool in England on 26 August and was attached first to the 8<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, and was then transferred to the 15<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>370</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 106.

<sup>371</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 110.

<sup>372</sup> *Border Watch*, 10 December 1913, p.1.

Training Battalion on 5 November 1917. Sent overseas to France on 18 December, he joined the 38<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 24 December in Belgium where it was based until being moved to France in late March and used to help blunt the German Spring Offensive. He was transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun Battalion on 29 April 1918, had an 'A' added to his regimental number, and served with this unit until the end of the war. He went on leave from 5 to 17 November 1918, transferred to Administrative Headquarters in London on 6 December 1918 and attached to the Australian Pay Corps. He was promoted to Corporal on 1 June 1919 and left England for return to Australia aboard the 'Bahia Castillo' on 14 April 1920, disembarking on 16 June and was discharged on 2 August.

**380 Gilbert Graham POOLE** was born at Berwick, Victoria, on 21 October 1896. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 9 October 1908 by his father, Robert Murton Poole, storekeeper, of Railway Terrace, Mount Gambier.<sup>373</sup> A report in the *Border Watch* in 1912 stated he had won a scholarship to Adelaide High School 'tenable for two years ... free tuition and an allowance of £40 per annum'.<sup>374</sup> In early 1916 the *Border Watch* reported that he had been a student at Adelaide University and he had enlisted:

Unfortunately it was found necessary for him to undergo an operation to permit him going on with his military training. The operation was performed in the Queen Mary Hospital, and was successful.<sup>375</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 15 May 1916 (19, Adelaide University student, single, Presbyterian) naming his mother, Mrs Grace Mary Poole of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Melbourne on the 'Commonwealth' on 19 September 1916, disembarked at Plymouth in England on 14 November, and was attached to the Machine Gun Training Depot.

He was sent overseas to France on 1 March 1917 and joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Company on 17 March. He was severely gassed during an enemy bombardment near Aubigny in France on 17 April 1918, was evacuated to England on 20 April, and released to furlough from 5 to 19 August. He did not re-join his unit (which had been redesignated the 5<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion) until 1 November 1918, just before the armistice. He went on leave to Paris from 8 to 21 April 1919 and left for England on his return. He was granted leave in England from 1 May to 1 November 1919 to find out about 'turbine works', and then left England on the 'Aeneas' for return to Australia on 22 November 1919. Disembarking on 6 January 1920, he was hospitalised at Keswick from 7 to 19 January 1920 before being discharged 'medically unfit' on 12 March 1920.

**10656 William Robert POOLE** was born at Berwick, Victoria, on 4 May 1894<sup>376</sup> and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, Robert Murton Poole, storekeeper, of Railway Terrace, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 31 March 1910.

He enlisted in Melbourne on 11 January 1916 (21, engineer, single, Presbyterian) naming his father, Robert Poole of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin, having previously been rejected as

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<sup>373</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 91.

<sup>374</sup> *Border Watch*, 27 January 1912, p.2.

<sup>375</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 April 1916, p.2.

<sup>376</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 26.

a result of 'teeth'. He embarked from Melbourne on the 'Ascanius' on 25 May 1916, disembarked 18 July 1916, was sent overseas to France on 23 November 1916 and joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Signals Company. He was hospitalised from 28 November to 6 December 1916 with laryngitis and from 21 to 26 January 1917 with chilblains. On 3 February 1917 he was transferred to London Headquarters and discharged on 26 February to take up employment in the under the Explosives Department of Ministry of Munitions for War.

In 1919 he returned to Australia on the 'Devanaha' accompanied by a wife <sup>377</sup>and returned to Mount Gambier by train on Monday 23 June but declined a public welcome. <sup>378</sup> The following report from the *Border Watch* provides some insights into his transition to post-war civilian life:

Information has been received that the King has conferred upon Mr W.R. Poole, eldest son of Mr R.M. Poole, formerly of Mount Gambier, but now of Greenwald, Victoria, the Order of the British Empire, for services given in the Great War. Mr W.R. Poole first served in France with an engineering unit with the AIF as a sapper, but because of his knowledge of chemistry he was transferred by the Ministry of Munitions from the firing line to England, where he was engaged in the making of poison gas in one of the large manufactories there. It is understood it is for his services in this way that he has received the decoration. He is now manager of the Bryt-oh Polish Works at Greenwald, near Dartmoor. <sup>379</sup>

**3342 Harry Lincoln POTTS** was born at Iron Bridge, Shropshire, England. He was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 May 1912 by his father, William A. Potts, minister of religion, of Grey Street, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 21 December 1912. <sup>380</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 15 September 1915 (18, storekeeper's assistant, single, Methodist) naming his mother, Mrs Louisa Potts of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin). He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Medic' on 12 January 1916, disembarked at Marseilles 27 March 1916 and joined the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 15 June 1916. He was wounded (thigh, severe) on 27 June 1916 during an enemy bombardment, being evacuated to England on 29 June. Released to 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion 13 September 1916, he was hospitalised again, this time with bronchitis from 10 to 28 February 1917. He was transferred to 70<sup>th</sup> Battalion in England on 23 March 1917, but this was disbanded when AIF Command decided not to form a 6<sup>th</sup> Division as had been intended.

He returned to France on 14 October 1917, and re-joined the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 20 October. He was hospitalised suffering from a hernia on 13 January 1918, and did not re-join the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion until 25 April. He was hospitalised again with the hernia on 14 May 1918, and re-joined the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 26 September 1918. He was granted leave to England from 20 October to 6 November 1918. Hospitalised with cellulitis on 8 January 1919, he was sent to England on 17 January, discharged from hospital 6 February, and granted leave till 6 March.

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<sup>377</sup> *Border Watch*, 13 June 1919, p.3.

<sup>378</sup> *Border Watch*, 27 June 1919, p.3.

<sup>379</sup> *Border Watch*, 3 September 1920, p.3

<sup>380</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 244.

Left England for return to Australia on the 'Karoa' on 25 March 1919, disembarked on 7 May, and discharged from the AIF on 21 June.

**7288 Frank James ROACH** was born at Kilkenny, South Australia, on 13 April 1894 and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 9 October 1908 by his father Edward S Roach, compositor, of Claraville, Mount Gambier. He left school on 22 December 1909.<sup>381</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 24 January 1917 (20, reader's assistant, single, Church of England) naming his father, Edward Arthur Roach of Maylands, as his next of kin, having previously been rejected because of his foot and a heart murmur. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Borda' on 23 June 1917, disembarked at Plymouth in England on 25 August, where he was attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Training Battalion, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Battalion.

He went overseas to France on 8 January 1918, and joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 23 January, being hospitalised suffering from hammer toe from 9 to 21 February, and then involved in the operations that halted the German offensive in March and April. He was awarded a Military Medal for his actions on 1-2 March. His commendation reads:

At Hollebeke on night of 1/2 March, 1918, during an enemy raid, Pte. Roach displayed great bravery under very trying conditions. He voluntarily accompanied his platoon commander upon a reconnaissance of the raided area, under heavy artillery and machine gun fire. He crept out in front of our posts, located our own and enemy wounded and assisted to bring them in. Through the whole operation he displayed great courage and initiative and set a splendid example to the other men of the platoon.

He was hospitalised again, this time with influenza from 24 June to 5 July before rejoining the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion and taking part in Australian advances near Amiens in August and September. He left England from Liverpool on board the 'Plassy' for return to Australia on 17 March 1919, disembarked on 28 April and was discharged on 28 May. He was one of a number of soldiers presented with their decorations for bravery by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Galway, at Government House, Adelaide, on Tuesday 26 August.<sup>382</sup>

**Wilbur Harold ROOK** was born in Adelaide on 20 April 1896 and attended Apsley State School before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 20 February 1910 by his father, Arthur Charles Rook, licensed victualler, of Commercial Street, Mount Gambier. He left this school on 31 December 1911.<sup>383</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 19 June 1917 (21, electrician, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Mrs Agnes Mary Rook of the Mount Gambier Hotel, Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. A report in the (Adelaide) *Mail* in early 1918 reported that he was in the Central Flying

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<sup>381</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 83.

<sup>382</sup> *Register*, 25 August 1919, p.4.

<sup>383</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 130.

School at Laverton<sup>384</sup>. In May 1918 the *Border Watch* reported he was on long leave prior to embarking.<sup>385</sup>

He embarked from Sydney on the 'Orontes' on 5 June 1918, disembarked at Liverpool 11 August and was attached to the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) Depot. On 6 September he was sent to the School of Military Aeronautics at Reading and on 8 January 1919 he joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Training Squadron. He left England on the 'Orontes' on 15 May 1919 for return to Australia, disembarked on 26 June to be met by his mother<sup>386</sup> and returned to Mount Gambier in early July but managed to avoid the planned welcome<sup>387</sup> was discharged on 11 July.

**179 William John SHAUGHNESSY** was born at Mount Gambier on 18 June 1894 and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, John Shaughnessy, baker, of Arbor Street, Mount Gambier. He left this school on 20 December 1907.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 22 September 1915 (21, wool classer, single, Methodist) naming his mother, Mrs Matilda Louisa Shaughnessy of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He attended a school for non-commissioned officers from 1 November to 31 December 1915 and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 9 March 1916 before embarking from Adelaide on the 'Afric' on 9 June 1916.

He arrived in France on 25 November 1916 where he joined the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. He was promoted to second lieutenant on 15 February 1917 and lieutenant on 30 May 1917. During much of 1917 the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion were based in Flanders. Shaughnessy was wounded by shrapnel (fractured jaw, severe) during an enemy bombardment on 4 April 1917 and evacuated to England on 14 April. He left England for return to Australia on 10 March 1918 on board the 'Durham Castle'. He transferred to the 'Orontes' at Capetown in South Africa and disembarked at Melbourne on 10 May 1918. He was discharged 'medically unfit' on 16 August 1918.

**8381 Eric John SHEPHERD** was born at Hindmarsh, South Australia, on 16 June 1894 and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School by his father, Charles Shepherd, carpenter, of Powell Street, Mount Gambier. According to the school register he left school on 30 June 1909,<sup>388</sup> having been recently appointed an unpaid monitor.<sup>389</sup> Appointed pupil teacher<sup>390</sup> soon after, the local newspaper reported on him giving a lesson on Longfellow's story of Hiawatha during the annual visit by the Board of Advice to Mount Gambier Public School on 31 October 1913.<sup>391</sup> He was reported as having won first prize in a Fancy Dress Tennis Competition held by the Methodist Club but open to all in late 1913.<sup>392</sup>

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<sup>384</sup> *Mail*, 9 February 1918, p.2.

<sup>385</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 May 1918, p.3.

<sup>386</sup> *Mail*, 5 July 1919, p.9.

<sup>387</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 July 1919, p.3.

<sup>388</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 28.

<sup>389</sup> *Border Watch*, 26 May 1909, p.2.

<sup>390</sup> *Border Watch*, 25 June 1910, p.2

<sup>391</sup> *Border Watch*, 1 November 1913, p.2

<sup>392</sup> *Border Watch*, 1 November 1913, p.1.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 7 September 1915 (21, student, single, Methodist) naming his mother, Mrs Ida Elizabeth Shepherd of Penola Road, Mount Gambier, as his next of kin. He embarked from Melbourne on the 'Persic' on 22 November 1915, disembarked at Suez in Egypt on 21 December and was attached to the 6<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade on 20 January 1916. He embarked at Alexandria in Egypt on 17 March 1916 and disembarked at Marseilles in France on 23 March.

He was promoted to the rank of Corporal on 30 July 1917 and granted leave to England from 30 July to 15 August 1917. He was awarded the Military Medal for his actions on 14 September 1917. His commendation reads:

On the 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1917, at Zillebeke, the 18<sup>th</sup> Battery position was heavily shelled from 3pm to 4.30pm with 5.9" and 8". At 3.35pm an ammunition dump alongside No.1 gun was hit and it and the gun pit caught fire. These men [Sgt Marshall Albert Cocker, Sgt Doric Dudley Bradbury, Cpl Eric John Shepherd, Gnr Lancelot Carthew] on Lieut. Dodd calling for a party rushed out of the shelter trench in the face of heavy fire and with water from adjacent shell holes succeeded in putting it out. Later the pit was again hit and it and the ammunition and an adjacent pit caught fire. These men again went out with Lieut. Dodd in the face of the shelling and succeeded in saving the guns and ammunition. They displayed great gallantry and determination in the face of very considerable danger.

He was promoted to Sergeant on 1 January 1918 and sent to Officers Training Corps on 17 March 1918, being promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 15 December 1918. He returned to France on 21 December 1918, joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade on 4 January 1919, and was transferred to 5<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade on 9 March 1919. He was sent to England in April and granted leave from 1 May to 1 November to attempt a jeweller's course. He left England for return to Australia aboard the 'Ypiringa' on 15 November 1919, disembarked on 1 January 1920, and was discharged from the AIF on 2 March.

**1893 Cecil Ernest Lee SKITCH** was born at Stockport, South Australia, on 6 March 1894 and attended school at Millicent before being enrolled at Mount Gambier on 4 October 1909 by his father Ernest William Skitch, primary school teacher and later school inspector, of O'Halloran Terrace, Mount Gambier. He left this school on 31 December 1910.<sup>393</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 4 October 1915 (21, station book keeper, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Alice Stitch of Malvern, South Australia, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Borda' on 11 January 1916 as a reinforcement for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse, joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Reserve Regiment in Egypt on 1 March 1916, and was hospitalised with influenza from 14 to 20 March. He was transferred to Artillery Details on 15 May 1916 and embarked from Alexandria on 28 May. He was detailed for duty with Headquarters AIF Depots in England on 19 September 1916, promoted to the rank of ER/Corporal (Records) on 29 August 1917, married Marie Elizabeth Croft at St Faith's parish church, Stoke Newington, London, on 29 September 1917, hospitalised again with influenza from 8 to 16 October 1917, promoted to ER/Sergeant on 5 November 1917, hospitalised from 2 to 12 March 1918 and

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<sup>393</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 124.

again from 13 to 30 April 1918. As a result he was marched out for return to Australia on 24 May 1918, left England from Liverpool on the 'Essex' for return to Australia for a change as a result of debility on 4 June 1918, disembarked on 1 August, and was discharged from the AIF on 27 September 1918.

**2744 Lancelot Chaplin TAYLOR** was born at Port MacDonnell on 2 November 1895 and attended school at Port MacDonnell before being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 13 February 1911 by his father, Morgan Edward Taylor, clerk, of Port MacDonnell. He left this school on 31 March 1911.<sup>394</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 16 March 1916 (20, engineer, single, Church of England) naming his mother, Mrs Emily Florence Taylor of Dublin, South Australia, as his next of kin, and was farewelled at Port MacDonnell in April by a crowd of about 200 people<sup>395</sup>. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Port Melbourne' on 23 October 1916, disembarked at Devonport in England on 28 December and was attached to the 13<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion.

He was sent to France on 10 April 1917, and joined the 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 15 April, was promoted to Lance Corporal on 2 July 1917, and took part in major battles at Messines in July and Polygon Wood in September. He was hospitalised while in England on leave on 24 January 1918, and hospitalised again, this time with scabies from 6 to 12 June 1918, before returning to France on 10 October 1918 where he re-joined his unit on 14 October. He was hospitalised with influenza on 10 December 1918, and re-joined his unit on 17 January 1919. He left for England in March 1919 before leaving for return to Australia on the 'City of Exeter' on 12 July 1919, disembarking on 22 August, and was discharged from the AIF on 29 September.

**38133 Norman George TAYLOR** was born at Bendigo, Victoria, on 29 May 1892 and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, Walter H.A. Taylor, carpenter, of Grey Street, Mount Gambier. He left this school on 22 December 1909.<sup>396</sup> He worked for the National Bank in Mount Gambier and during his stay was active in the Presbyterian choir and St Andrew's Tennis Club, before being transferred to Penola and then Adelaide.<sup>397</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 23 January 1917 (24, bank clerk, single, Presbyterian) naming his father, Walter Homan Alfred Taylor of Francis Street, Mount Gambier, as his next-of-kin, and was hospitalised with influenza from 2 to 11 September 1917, before embarking from Melbourne on the 'Port Sydney' on 9 November 1917. He disembarked at Suez on 12 December 1917, embarked again on 18 December 1917 and travelled via Taranto, finally disembarking at Southampton on 5 January 1918.

He was sent to France on 17 July 1918 and joined the 107<sup>th</sup> Battery of the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade on 30 July, with which he served until the armistice. On 8 January 1919 he was detached to Corps Central School and according to a report in the *Border Watch* he 'took advantage of the educational training offered to soldiers and went through the accountancy

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<sup>394</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 185.

<sup>395</sup> *Border Watch*, 29 April 1916, p.4.

<sup>396</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 24

<sup>397</sup> *Border Watch*, 16 June 1915, p.3; 10 July 1915, p.2; 14 August 1917, p.3; 5 November 1929, p.1.

course at Rue, near Abbeville'<sup>398</sup> in France, before returning to England in May 1919. He left England on the 'Main' for return to Australia on 23 July 1919, the ship apparently being delayed by engine trouble on the way home. He disembarked on 5 October, returned to Mount Gambier in October, and was discharged 6 November.

**6156 Leslie Robert TEMPLEMAN** was born at Mount Gambier on 27 June 1894 and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 21 January 1907 by his father, Joseph Taylor Templeman, farmer, of Elizabeth Street, Mount Gambier. He left this school on 31 October 1908.<sup>399</sup>

He enlisted in Sydney, New South Wales, on 25 July 1916 (23, farmer, single, Church of England) naming his father, Joseph Taylor Templeman of Mount Gambier, as his next of kin and embarked from Sydney on the 'Ascanius' on 25 October 1916, disembarked at Devonport on 28 December 1916, and was attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion.

He was sent to France on 13 March 1917 and joined the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 31 March. He was hospitalised with dermatitis from 7 to 12 June before being wounded (head, arm and leg) on 18 September 1917 during enemy bombardment during the battalion's movement into the front line prior to the Battle of Menin Road, and was subsequently evacuated to England on 21 September for further treatment before being discharged from hospital on 27 October. He was hospitalised again with eczema from 22 October to 14 November 1918 in England, before leaving for return to Australia on the 'Orca' 19 February 1919, disembarking in Sydney on 3 April, and was discharged from the AIF on 30 June.

**337 James Keith WEBSTER** was born at Port Arlington, Victoria, on 15 December 1896 and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 24 September 1909 by his father, Frederick Webster, produce merchant, of O'Halloran Terrace, Mount Gambier. He left the school on 31 March 1910.<sup>400</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 10 August 1915 (18, farmer, single, Church of England), naming his mother, Mrs Elizabeth Maude Webster of 'Hedley Park', Mount Gambier, as his next of kin, embarked from Adelaide on the 'Katuna' on 11 November 1915 as part of the Transport Section of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, and disembarked at Suez on 16 December 1915. Hospitalised with influenza from 26 February to 12 April 1916, he re-joined the 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on 19 April and embarked from Alexandria on the 'Transylvania' on 17 June 1916, disembarking at Marseilles on 23 June and was involved in the horrendous attack at Fromelles that resulted in heavy casualties. He was granted leave to England from 24 May to 9 June 1917, was involved in the attack at Polygon Wood on 26 September 1917, was detached to the 29<sup>th</sup> Australian Army Service Corps from 10 February to 24 March 1918, promoted to Lance Corporal on 6 July 1918, and granted leave to England again from 29 August to 14 September 1918. He took part in the attack by 2 Australian and 2 American divisions across the St Quentin Canal tunnel from 29 September to 1 October 1918 which broke the Hindenburg Line and was awarded the Military Medal for his actions during this attack. His commendation reads:

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<sup>398</sup> *Border Watch*, 10 October 1919, p.3.

<sup>399</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 40.

<sup>400</sup> MGHS Admissions Register, 109.

During the period 29<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 1918 in the operations carried out by the Battalion in the Bellicourt Sector, Lance Corporal Webster showed great courage and set a very fine example to all. He was in charge of the pack animals carrying rations to the Battalion on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> September/1<sup>st</sup> October. In spite of intense shell fire, by his great coolness and courage, he delivered the rations to the companies without casualties. He has at all times shown energy and an untiring devotion to duty.

He left France for England in February 1919 and departed England for return to Australia from Liverpool on the 'Wyreema' on 13 April 1919, disembarked on 27 May, and was discharged from the AIF on 20 July.

**1718 Clive Lithgow WITCOMBE** was born at Lithgow, NSW, on 20 February 1895 and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 1 February 1909 by his guardian, Edgar James Price, bank manager, of Mount Gambier. He left the school on 1 November 1911.<sup>401</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 29 September 1915 (20, bank clerk, single Church of England) naming his mother, Mrs Eliza Catherine Witcombe of Mount Barker, as his next of kin. He embarked from Adelaide on the 'Afric' on 9 June 1916 as a reinforcement to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, disembarked at Port Said 12 July 1916, and after a short stay in Egypt, embarked at Alexandria on the 'Megantic' on 6 August 1916. Throughout 1916 and 1917 he was frequently hospitalised throughout before leaving England for return to Australia on 4 May 1917 on the 'Miltiades' from Devonport, disembarked on 1 July, and was discharged 'medically unfit' from the AIF as a result of debility on 8 August 1917.

**729A Melville John WILLIAMS** was born at Smeaton, Victoria, on 29 August 1893 and was enrolled at Mount Gambier High School on 20 April 1909 by his father, Taliesin Henry Williams, grazier, of Sturt Street, Mount Gambier. He left school on 22 December 1909.<sup>402</sup>

He enlisted in Adelaide on 1 February 1917 (23, grazier, single, Presbyterian) listing his mother, Catherine Williams of 'Chetwynd', care of Mount McIntyre Post Office via Kalangadoo, as his next of kin. His attestation paper mentions that he had served for six months with the senior cadets at Mount Gambier. He embarked from Melbourne on the 'Suevic' on 21 June 1917 as a reinforcement to the 8<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Company, disembarking at Liverpool on 26 August and was attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Hurdcott but was hospitalised sick on 20 September. Following his discharge from hospital on 1 October he was transferred to the 15<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Codford, travelled to France on 18 December 1917 to reinforce the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, and was taken on strength on 24 December. He was treated briefly for dermatitis in March 1918 before taking part in actions around Villers-Bretonneux that helped bring the German offensive to a halt. In August and September he was part of the advance that drove the Germans back to the Hindenburg Line and was promoted to Lance Corporal on 10 September. He fell sick a week after the armistice was signed, was evacuated to England in early December and admitted to Bath Hospital suffering from pleurisy. He was discharged from hospital in mid-January and went on furlough prior to leaving from Devonport for return

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<sup>401</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 101.

<sup>402</sup> Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register, 104.

to Australia on the 'Armagh' on 5 April 1919, disembarking on 16 May and was discharged on 9 July 1919.



***George Edwin Baggott (Mt Gambier RSL)***



***Roy Bishop (Mt Gambier RSL)***



***Allan Edward Bartlett (Mt Gambier RSL)***



*Stanley Field Boothey (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Herbert Thomas Chesterfield  
(Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Reginald William Carr (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Frederick Lester Daniel (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Thomas Llewellyn Davies (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Frederick Charles Elliott (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Alexander Hubert Hawdon Davison  
(Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Clifton Ronald Gillett (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Harold Lindsay Green (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Keith Graham Hay (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Colin Hay (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Reginald Alexander Bertram Hay  
(Mt Gambier RSL)*



*John Milner Hosking (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Alexander James Leamey (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Horace Eldred Jarrad (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Murray Leslie Lawrence (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Arthur Pitman Millhouse (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Glanville Montague McAdam (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Harry Morris (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Donald Neil MacGillivray (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*John Robert MacGillivray (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Alan Charles Plate (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Grier James Pannell (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Gilbert Graham Poole (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*William Robert Poole (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*William John Shaughnessy (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Harry Lincoln Potts (Mt Gambier RSL)*



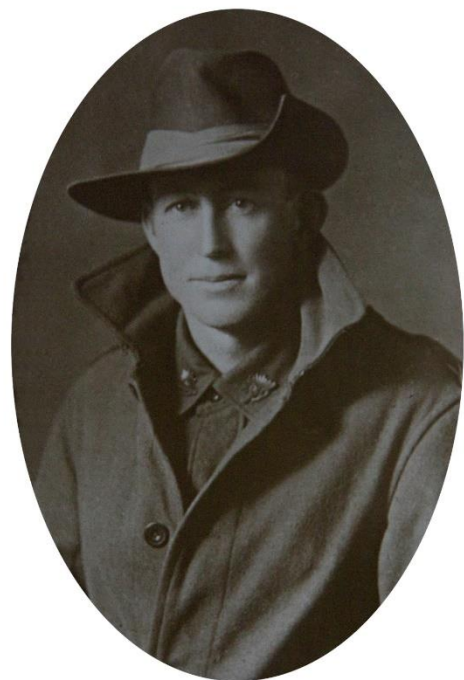
*Eric John Shepherd (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Norman George Taylor (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Lancelot Chaplin Taylor (Mt Gambier RSL)*



*Leslie Robert Templeman (Mt Gambier RSL)*



***James Keith Webster (Mt Gambier RSL)***

***Border Watch, 5 April 1918, p.2*** : “Air Cadet Wilbur H. Rook, writing to his mother, Mrs A.M. Rook, of the Mount Gambier Hotel, states: -- “I enlisted in the A.I.F., and was transferred from Mitcham (S.A.) to the Australian Wireless Training School. Here I managed to prove myself worthy of three stripes. I was due to embark about December 20, when I had already applied for a position to attend an Australian Flying School at Laverton, Victoria. For this I proved a successful candidate (amongst, I believe, some huge number) and at the time of writing, 23.1.18, I have just completed my ‘solo’ flight, which occupied 29 minutes, and only seemed eight or nine. Flying is certainly great, but ‘solo’ requires some nerve and plenty of practice. It is hard to give a true idea to a person who has never flown, but as a passenger it is absolutely ideal. Any opportunity that arises is most worthy of acceptance, as flying now-a-days is fairly safe. However, there exists a risk, but that is found in every walk of life.

“After two years at Mount Gambier High School, I began an apprenticeship with the Adelaide



***Wilbur Harold Rook (Mt Gambier RSL)***

Municipal Tramways Trust, with the idea of eventually becoming an electrical engineer. However, I served five years with the Trust, going through almost every department, and finally remained in the Power Stations Department, where I found myself of most value. After four years I was allotted a position in charge of a shift at one of the Trust’s power stations, and held that until enlisting.

“Whilst employed by the Trust I took a keen interest in wireless work. I had an amateur position of fair standing, and also held a position of Sergt.-Major with a wireless unit in South Australia. I also furthered my studies at the South Australian School of Mines, and these all kept my time well occupied with my position, which necessitated shift duties ...

“Should I prove satisfactory here, I shall be sent abroad to complete the course, and should see service about August next.”

## AN AFTERWORD

So what happened to the men who returned? The problems Australian war veterans have faced in trying to resume civilian life after any major conflict have been well documented. War changes people, so the fact that many had difficulty returning to some form of normalcy should come as no surprise given what they had experienced while overseas. Others seem to have relatively easily resumed civilian life. In this respect Mount Gambier old scholars were no different.

Tracing what happened to these men after returning to Australia is far from any easy task and certainly beyond the scope of this study. Nevertheless, a quick search of past Australian newspapers online using Trove does offer some interesting insights into the post-war experience of these men. For some there are occasional references to arrests related to minor offences such as petty theft, illegal gambling and alcohol abuse, much as one would expect to find for the general population at the time. A few of those who took up farms after the war struggled to make ends meet and fell victim to bankruptcy as a result of fluctuating seasons and the problems associated with the Great Depression of the 1930s, again, mirroring the experience of farmers generally. Others were more fortunate. Horace Billing returned to teaching, eventually becoming a school inspector. During the Second World War he served as a lieutenant in the 4<sup>th</sup> Garrison Battalion.<sup>403</sup>

The stories of a few are very tragic. Murray Leslie Lawrence returned briefly to Mount Gambier and worked as an upholsterer with Messrs James and McMahon before moving to Melbourne. He died in 1927 of what the *Border Watch* reported as 'heart trouble'.<sup>404</sup> Wilbur Harold Rook was accidentally drowned at Hawkes Bay, New Zealand in 1932.<sup>405</sup> Reginald Alexander Bertram Hay was reappointed to the local post office soon after his return to Mount Gambier<sup>406</sup> and was in charge of the Kalangadoo Post Office until 1934 when he was transferred to Ardrossan.<sup>407</sup> On 2 December he was found dead in a dressing shed near the Ardrossan jetty. His death was ruled as a suicide.<sup>408</sup> Was his death somehow connected to his war experience?

Robert William Poole returned to working with munitions after his involvement in the industry in England during the war. He worked on munitions production at the Government Explosive Factory till 1941, the Nobel factory explosives factory at Deer Park in Melbourne till 1951, and Estate Officer of the Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand (later ICI Australia) till his death in 1955.<sup>409</sup>

After returning to Australia Clifton Ronald Gillett joined the Agricultural Bank and for most of the time he was based at Bunbury where he was heavily involved in community and the local

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<sup>403</sup> <http://blackwoodsoldiersproject.blogspot.com.au/2010/03/lieutenant-horace-lionel-billing-of.html>

<sup>404</sup> *Border Watch*, 22 November 1927, p.4.

<sup>405</sup> *Chronicle*, 5 May 1932, p.42.

<sup>406</sup> *Border Watch*, 8 July 1919, p.3.

<sup>407</sup> *Border Watch*, 20 February 1934, p.3.

<sup>408</sup> *Advertiser*, 3 December 1934, p.12.

<sup>409</sup> Encyclopedia of Australian Science, <http://www.eoas.info/biogs/P002578b.htm>

RSL branch, becoming the first State country vice-president of the RSL. Ill health forced his retirement from the bank in 1935 and he died in 1936.<sup>410</sup>

Noel Augustine Foord resumed work in the banking industry after returning to Australia. He re-joined the ES&A Bank in 1920 and served as branch manager at Robe, Victor Harbor, Blyth and Peterborough, finally retiring in 1962.<sup>411</sup> He was active in a range of aspects of community life in the towns in which he was based and made regular visits to Mount Gambier over the years.

Another who returned to the banking industry was John Robert MacGillivray. After being discharged he went to work for the ES&A Bank and newspaper reports place him as manager of the Terowie branch in 1918, Booleroo Centre in 1921, Clare in 1924, and Pulteney Street (Adelaide) in 1941.

Harold Lindsay Green got a job in Mount Gambier as a car salesman but his interest in radio led to him building his own sets and selling them. As manager of Gambier Motors and Radio he began importing American-made commercial radio sets for resale and in 1927 relayed through Mount Gambier to Adelaide a broadcast from Melbourne of the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of York. He eventually bought out the company and went into business as Gambier Radio Service. Later his sons took over the running of the company but another hobby of boat building led him to establish Triton Boat Service.<sup>412</sup>

William Robert Hunt returned to law, initially based at Murray Bridge. He was highly involved in the local community there, being secretary of the Returned Soldiers' Association and chairman of the Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Board.<sup>413</sup> In 1928 he moved to Mount Gambier where he continued a successful practice and was also active in the RSL, becoming its president from 1943 to 1945.

Cecil Ernest Leslie Skitch had a colourful, if rather unsuccessful, career in politics. After returning to Australia he 'found work on a pastoral station in western New South Wales, but the isolation did not suit [his wife] Marie who insisted they move to Adelaide'.<sup>414</sup> In the 1920s, the couple became involved in socialist politics, being linked with the Communist Party of Australia and the Industrial Workers of the World. Cecil was arrested in 1926 for speaking without a permit in Botanic Park, Adelaide, the right of free speech and free assembly being one of the issues he took up when he ran unsuccessfully in 1927 as an Industrial Labour candidate for the South Australian state seat of Adelaide.<sup>415</sup> In 1928 he published *Woman's Destiny and Birth Control* which was controversial because it advocated birth control, seen by some authorities as a threat to the future of the nation's population.<sup>416</sup> He and his wife moderated their political views in the 1930s and Cecil became involved with the Australian

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<sup>410</sup> *West Australian*, 29 October 1936, p.22.

<sup>411</sup> *Victor Harbor Times*, 10 August 1962, p.138.

<sup>412</sup> *Border Watch*, 17 April 1952, p.13.

<sup>413</sup> *Border Watch*, 5 June 1928, p.1.

<sup>414</sup> 'Skitch, Marie Elizabeth' (entry), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.18, MUP, 2012.

<sup>415</sup> J. Moss, *Sound of Trumpets*, Wakefield Press, Adelaide, 1985, p.272.

<sup>416</sup> N. Moore, *The Censor's Library*

Labor Party. He ran unsuccessfully for the federal seats of Boothby in 1931 and Barker in 1934 and 1940. He died in 1956.

Eric John Shepherd was more successful. After serving as the president of the Mount Gambier RSL from 1922 to 1926 he stood unsuccessfully as Labor candidate for the local seat of Victoria in the South Australian House of Assembly elections in 1921. In 1924 he was elected as one of the members for Victoria, and was appointed Government Whip.<sup>417</sup> In 1930 he became the Speaker in the House of Assembly, a position he held until losing his seat in the 1933 election. Afterwards he was employed for a time as a parliamentary reporter for the *Advertiser*.

Perhaps the most high profile career enjoyed by the ex-scholars who returned was that of Gilbert Graham Poole. In 1947 he was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) and the *Border Watch* reported:

He has served the South Australian Government as an engineer for about 25 years and at present is resident engineer in the Engineering and Water Supply Department, as well as mine manager of the Leigh Creek coalfield. Since the inception of the Leigh Creek coalfield, he has been in charge of development, and the success achieved has been due largely to his industry, enthusiasm and careful planning.<sup>418</sup>

In 1949 he was been appointed Chief Construction Engineer and was one of a small group of senior officials entrusted with purchasing equipment for the South Australian Government for use in the 'Mannum-Adelaide pipeline, the new South Para Reservoir and the South Eastern drainage scheme for closer settlement'.<sup>419</sup>

Two men, Charles Lamplough Creed and Norman George Taylor, were to die of a disease which is relatively unheard of in Australia today but which was remarkably common at the time. Tuberculosis is a nasty disease that attacks the lungs. It is very contagious and is spread through the air when actively infected people cough, sneeze or spit. For this reason spitting in public was commonly regarded as vulgar in Australia, though the stigma associated with spitting in public seems to have dissipated. Today it is common to see high profile sportsmen spitting on the sports field.

The disease is now treated by use of antibiotics, but in the days of the First World War and those immediately following, such treatments were not available. Tuberculosis was considered a death sentence. Marina Larsson, in *Shattered Anzacs*, says that it was the greatest cause of deaths in young and middle-aged adults between 1900 and 1925, and that in 1925 about one in 160 Australians were infected with the disease.<sup>420</sup>

One of the problems associated with the disease was that symptoms did not necessarily appear soon after infection, so it could be carried and transmitted to others without a person even being aware that they had contracted it. Classic symptoms of the disease were a chronic

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<sup>417</sup> *Border Watch*, 21 April 1925, p.4.

<sup>418</sup> *Border Watch*, 2 January 1947, p.1.

<sup>419</sup> *Border Watch*, 6 December 1949, p.16.

<sup>420</sup> Marina Larsson, *Shattered Anzacs*, Sydney, 2009, pp. 182-3.

cough, fatigue, fever and weight loss. Eventually the lungs became so badly affected that the sufferer would cough up blood. Death was the end result.

On his enlistment, a soldier was asked if he had the disease, but no test was conducted to confirm his answer. As a result it is impossible to know how many already had contracted the disease before they joined the AIF. We know that some volunteers did have a pre-existing condition which was uncovered while they were in camp. Others certainly were exposed to the disease as a result of their military service. The disease was quite common in Europe and the Middle East where they served.

Those who returned to Australia suffering from the effects of the disease were usually sent to a military sanatorium such as that at Bedford Park in Adelaide for isolation and treatment. Treatment consisted of 'bed rest, fresh air and a nutritious diet'.<sup>421</sup> Soldiers were encouraged to develop their habits that would reduce the risk of infection to family members if they were discharged. Some constructed 'sleep-outs' on their verandahs, where a tubercular soldier could sleep, so reducing physical contact with wives and children. Kissing and other physical contact was discouraged.

Soldiers whose tuberculosis was only diagnosed well after their return to Australia had some difficulty trying to convince the Repatriation Department that their illness was war-related because the disease was so common in the civilian population. Then there was the added problem that the Department took no responsibility for the welfare of the families of those soldiers who were affected.

For returned soldiers suffering from the effects of the disease, the development of the disease made it impossible for them to hold down regular employment, and in the days before the provision of unemployment benefits, made providing for a family extremely difficult. At best, sufferers were socially ostracised. At worst, they were actively discriminated against. Tubercular soldiers did not win jobs available and those who were discovered to have the disease were often sacked as a result.

Creed died from this insidious disease after returning from overseas. Shortly before his death his father John James Creed had made a hurried trip by train to Adelaide to visit his son but had become ill and died on 28 July. His wife, Agnes Matilda Rachael Creed had followed him to Adelaide but herself became ill and died on 4 August.<sup>422</sup> Charles's death on 18 August 1921 left the other six children, ranging in ages from 6 to 18, without parents.<sup>423</sup> A subsequent appeal in the local area aimed to raise £300 to pay off the mortgage on the family home at Yahl<sup>424</sup> exceeded expectations and actually raised in excess of £380.<sup>425</sup>

Taylor was diagnosed with the disease soon after returning to Australia and was a patient at Bedford Park Sanatorium by 1921, when he was reported as having given evidence in a court case which developed out of a fireworks display at Jubilee Oval, Adelaide, on 23 April of that

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<sup>421</sup> *ibid.*, p.185.

<sup>422</sup> *Border Watch*, 9 August 1921, p.2.

<sup>423</sup> *Border Watch*, 19 August 1921, p.2.

<sup>424</sup> *Border Watch*, 9 September 1921, p.2.

<sup>425</sup> *Border Watch*, 1 November 1921, p.4.

year to raise funds for 'consumptive soldiers and sailors at the Bedford Park and Myrtle Bank Sanitoriums'.<sup>426</sup> He died at his home in Frewville, Adelaide, on 2 November 1929 and was buried in West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide, having been one of the founding members of the Tubercular Soldiers' Aid Society and having served as president and secretary of the Tubercular Soldiers' Association.<sup>427</sup>

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### Appendix 1: Teachers in charge, Mount Gambier High School, 1907-1923

**Horace George VINEY** (from University Training College). Commenced 21 January 1907, departed 20 December 1907 (appointed to Kadina).

**Alfred Emil Johannes (John) KLOSE** (from Wellington Road School). Commenced 20 January 1908, departed 27 June 1908 (appointed to Kapunda).

**Herbert Clifton HOSKING** (from Kapunda Continuation School). Commenced 6 July 1908, departed 31 March 1923 (to become Vice Principal of Adelaide High School).

### Appendix 2: Enrolments and attendance, Mount Gambier High School, 1907-1922 (Source: Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register)

Year	Total who attended	Average daily attendance
1907	53	42.2
1908	53	25.6
1909	67	38.2
1910*	92	40.8
1911*	118	56.4
1912*	105	59.2
1913	63	43.9
1914	69	47.9
1915	63	48.2
1916	60	44.3
1917	86	67.6
1918	90	73.4
1919	67	49.1
1920	58	41.4
1921	76	61.3
1922	109	94.0

\* During the years 1910 to 1912 new enrolments were permitted during the year, many being admitted in September.

**Appendix 3: Mount Gambier High School 1911.**



*This photograph, from the Les Hill Collection, lists the following accompanying names: Gilbert Poole, Roy Shepherdson, Cyril Hardy, Roy Criddle, Will Higgs, Reg Morris, Lindsay Hall, Howard Major, M. Lawrence, Lester Daniel, Will Naylor, Harry Bulling, E. Gaden, Alf Edlington, George Marks, Allan Hill, Perc Truman, S. Shepherd, Glen McAdam, Colin Chandler, Noel Foord, Jack Vrammer, G. Shaw, J. Rogers, Bert Pitcher, Keith MacIntosh, Harold Baker, Wilbur Rook, Edgar Taylor, Blanche Beecham, Nell Gibson, Myra Kilsby, Fiora McPhee, Rene Hay, Jack Clark, Fred Elliott, Don Smith, Rita Storck, ? Marvet, ? Daniel, Clarice Howland, Edie Johnson, Rene Pitcher, Gert Bailey, Mary Mackie, Gladys Moody, Mary Franklin, Eva Fraser, Alice Jarrad, Olive Carr, Marg Shepherd, Pearl ?, Hilda Barrett, Agnes Connell, Ethel Bartlett, Myrite Clayer, Elaine Mack, Maud Linn, Mr. T.S. Koch, Ivy Crouch, Gert Taylor, Maud Chesterfield, Elsie MacGillivray, Ruby Brown, Vera Wilson, Hilda Creek, Rita Davison, Nellie Lawson, Gwen Martiensen, Marg Mackie, Winne Matthew, May Crouch, Miss G. Baker, Mr H.C. Hosking, Alf Attiwill, Ern Lewis, Colin Poole, Murray Moten, Jack Marks, Reg Taylor, Mr R. Gaden.*

**Appendix 4: Details of Mount Gambier High School students shown in photograph, 1911.**

<i>NAME ON PHOTOGRAPH</i>	<i>ENROLMENT NUMBER &amp; NAME</i>	<i>ENROLMENT DATE</i>	<i>DATE OF BIRTH</i>	<i>PARENT/GUARDIAN &amp; OCCUPATION</i>	<i>ADDRESS</i>	<i>PREVIOUS SCHOOL</i>	<i>DATE OF LEAVING HIGH SCHOOL</i>
Gilbert Poole	91 Gilbert Graham Poole	9 October 1908	21 October 1896	Robert Murton Poole (storekeeper)	Railway Avenue, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	31 March 1912
Roy Shepherdson	197 Albert Roy Shepherdson	9 October 1911	14 July 1897	William Shepherdson (coach painter)	James Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	28 June 1912
Cyril Hardy	105 Cecil Frank Haddy	6 September 1909	23 October 1896	Allan F. Haddy (public school teacher)	Powell Street, Mt Gambier	Sutton Town School	31 March 1912
Roy Criddle	180 Alfred Roy Criddle	11 October 1910	7 February 1896	Samuel Richard Criddle (gaol keeper)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	15 December 1911
Will Higgs	135 William B. Higgs	27 September 1910	11 August 1896	Samuel E. Higgs (butcher)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	28 June 1912 (to join Savings Bank)
Reg Morris	188 Reginald John Morris	24 July 1911	12 July 1897	George A. Morris (storeman)	Crouch Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier Grammar School	18 September 1912
Lindsay Hall	146 Mercer Lyndsay Hall	27 September 1910	24 September 1897	Thomas Hall (architect)	Edlington Terrace, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	26 October 1912
Howard Major	232 Harold A. Major	9 October 1911	21 November 1898	Charles Thomas Major (farmer)	Glenburnie	Glenburnie School	28 November 1912
M. Lawrence	147 Murray Leslie Lawrence	27 September 1910	28 June 1898	Harry Lawrence (saddler)	Hart Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Lester Daniel	186 Lester Frederick Daniel	12 June 1911	5 May 1897	Frederick H. Daniel (solicitor)	Elizabeth Street, Mt Gambier	Victorian school	28 June 1912
Will Naylor	144 Wilham Francis Naylor	27 September 1910	12 November 1896	Wilham Naylor (farmer)	Williamstown	Mt Gambier State School	31 March 1912
Harry Bulling	189 Laurence Hervy Bulling	10 October 1911	19 January 1899	William Bulling (draper)	North Terrace, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	30 November 1912
E. Gaden	137 Edgar Herbert Gaden	27 September 1910	25 April 1896	Carl Heinrich Gaden (farmer)	Penola Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	28 June 1912
Alf Edlington	183 Alfred Robert Edlington	25 January 1911	17 August 1897	George Edlington (farmer)	Wandilo	Wandilo School	19 December 1913
George Marks	152 George James Outram Marks	27 September 1910	27 August 1898	Samuel George Marks (mason)	Bertha Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	31 March 1912
Allan Hill	235 Allan Hill	9 October 1911	8 April 1899	Richard James Hill (farmer)	Yahl	Yahl School	27 September 1912
Perc Truman	148 Percy Oswald Truman	27 September 1910	31 December 1898	George E. Truman (wheelwright)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
S. Shepherd	190 Sydney J.P. Shepherd	9 October 1911	21 January 1899	Charles R. Shepherd (carpenter)	Queens Avenue, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	14 December 1912
Glen McAdam	203 Glanville M. McAdam	9 October 1911	17 May 1898	John McAdam (ganger)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	17 December 1912
Noel Foord	195 Noel Augustine Foord	9 October 1911	26 July 1899	Edwin Foord (telegraphist)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	May 1914

Jack Vrammer	140 John Brammer	27 September 1910	11 March 1898	Johann E. Brammer (tailor)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	20 December 1912
G. Shaw	204 Rupert Shaw	9 October 1911	16 June 1900	Minnie A. Shaw (domestic duties)	Rosaville	Mt Gambier State School	22 May 1913
J. Rogers	192 Wybert J.W. Rogers	9 October 1911	10 October 1898	Francis E. Rogers (ironworker)	Church Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	June 1914
Bert Pitcher	202 Albert James Pitcher	9 October 1911	14 October 1897	Albert James Pitcher (hotel keeper)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	23 March 1914
Keith MacIntosh	200 Keith F. MacIntosh	9 October 1911	14 December 1899	Keith MacIntosh (tinsmith)	Helen Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	31 December 1912
Harold Baker	145 Harold Carew Baker	27 September 1910	28 August 1898	Thomas Baker (postmaster)	Bay Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	20 November 1914
Wilbur Rook	130 Wilbur Rook	20 February 1910	20 April 1896	Arthur Charles F. Rook (licensed victualler)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Apsley School	31 December 1911
Edgar Taylor	90 Edgar Charles Taylor	9 October 1911	5 May 1896	Walter H.S. Taylor (builder)	Gray Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Blanche Beecham	168 Blanche G. Beauchamp	27 September 1910	12 November 1897	Jessie Beauchamp (domestic duties)	Jane Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	31 March 1912
Nell Gibson	157 Nellie Jones Gibson	27 September 1910	25 July 1898	James R. Gibson (caterer)	Watson Terrace, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	19 December 1913
Myra Kilsby	169 Mara Bessie Kilsby	27 September 1910	9 February 1897	George H. Kilsby (farmer)	Frewville	Mt Gambier State School	3 August 1913
Fiora McPhee	229 Flora M. McPhee	9 October 1911	9 September 1897	Donald McPhee (carpenter)	Edward Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	20 June 1913
Rene Hay	205 Irene Annie Hay	9 October 1911	4 January 1899	William Hay (agent)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Jack Clark	199 Alfred Clark	9 October 1911	3 October 1899	Alfred Clark (printer)	Agnes Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	7 August 1914
Fred Elliott	193 Frederick C. Elliott	9 October 1911	26 October 1899	Charles Fred Elliott (labourer)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Don Smith	191 Donald Smith	9 October 1911	3 October 1898	Charles H. Smith (labourer)	Queens Avenue, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	17 December 1913
Rita Storck	172 Vita Adiva Storck	27 September 1910	27 May 1898	John Joseph Storck (gardener)	Wallace Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	31 March 1912
? Daniel	223 Margaret L. Daniel	9 October 1911	13 April 1899	Frederick Daniel (solicitor)	Elizabeth Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	2 November 1912
Clarice Howland	219 Clarice E. Howland	9 October 1911	9 February 1898	Frederick H. Howland (house decorator)	Wallace Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Edie Johnson	231 Edith M. Johnson	9 October 1911	23 July 1897	Charles Johnson (labourer)	Sturt Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	6 March 1913
Rene Pitcher	164 Irene Pitcher	27 September 1910	6 July 1895	Albert James Pitcher (hotel keeper)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Gert Bailey	166 Mabel Gertrude Bailey	27 September 1910	9 July 1897	Arthur G. Piercy (traveller)	James Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	21 December 1912

Mary Mackie	162 Mary Grace Mackie	27 September 1910	2 June 1896	John Mackie (traveller)	Bay Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	31 March 1912
Gladys Moody	226 Gladys Moody	9 October 1911	21 September 1897	J.H. Moody (hotel keeper)	Bay Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 February 1913
Mary Franklin	176 Mary Franklin	27 September 1910	14 July 1897	Mrs G. Maddex (domestic duties)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	31 March 1912
Eva Fraser	228 Eva Fraser	9 October 1911	10 April 1897	Thomas Fraser (labourer)	Rosaville	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Alice Jarrad	187 Alice Florence Jarrad	11 July 1911	23 September 1896	Elizabeth Jarrad (domestic duties)	Craike Farm	Kapunda School	27 September 1912
Olive Carr	208 Olive Emma Carr	9 October 1911	7 August 1897	Albert W. Carr (baker)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	28 June 1912
Marg Shepherd	171 Marjorie Ida Shepherd	27 September 1910	18 August 1896	Charles R. Shepherd (carpenter)	Queens Avenue, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Pearl ?	160 Pearl Estelle Shepherdson	27 September 1910	26 October 1898	Frank Shepherdson (carriage painter)	Philipstown	Mt Gambier State School	26 October 1912
Hilda Barrett	227 Hilda Barratt	9 October 1911	26 November 1897	William Barratt (coach builder)	Gray Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	28 June 1912
Agnes Connell	212 Agnes M. Connell	9 October 1911	11 September 1897	James M. Connell (engine driver)	Bertha Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	28 June 1912
Ethel Bartlett	163 Ethel Bartlett	27 September 1910	20 June 1897	William Bartlett (wood merchant)	Charles Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Myrite Clayer	218 Myrtle Clayer	9 October 1911	19 March 1898	William Clayer (fireman)	Alexander Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	6 May 1913
Elaine Mack	170 Eileen Macke	27 September 1910	16 August 1895	John Richard Macke (post office official)	Bay Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	15 December 1911
Maud Linn	236 Maud Linn	9 October 1911	27 February 1893	James Linn (telegraph line foreman)	Agnes Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier Grammar School	15 December 1911
Ivy Crouch	209 Ivy Crouch	9 October 1911	8 February 1898	Alfred C. Crouch (blacksmith)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Gert Taylor	230 Gertrude Taylor	9 October 1911	4 November 1896	George Taylor (barman)	James Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	15 August 1913
Maud Chesterfield	214 Maud Chesterfield	9 October 1911	13 June 1899	William Chesterfield (painter)	Jane Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1912
Elsie MacGillivray	222 Elsie MacGillivray	9 October 1911	3 October 1899	Sophia MacGillivray (domestic duties)	Penola Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	1 November 1912
Ruby Brown	225 Ruby Brown	9 October 1911	12 March 1897	James Brown (painter)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Vera Wilson	184 Vera Belle Hastings	30 March 1911	10 August 1896	Joseph Thomas Hastings (traveller)	James Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	15 November 1911
Hilda Creek	221 Hilda Creek	9 October 1911	7 August 1898	George Creek (farmer)	Barooka	Mt Gambier State School	28 June 1912
Rita Davison	220 Rita Davidson	9 October 1911	23 July 1897	John Davidson (factory manager)	Penola Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	April 1914

Nellie Lawson	213 Nellie Lawson	9 October 1911	16 March 1899	Marie Lawson (housekeeper)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Gwen Martiensen	216 Gwen Martiensen	9 October 1911	24 June 1899	Robert Martiensen (mason)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1914
Marg Mackie	217 Marjorie G. Mackie	9 October 1911	13 February 1899	John Mackie (traveller)	Bay Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1914
Winne Matthew,	211 Winnie Mather	9 October 1911	3 May 1898	James John Mather (ganger SAR)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	18 December 1913
May Crouch	210 May Crouch	9 October 1911	30 October 1899	Alfred C. Crouch (blacksmith)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	19 December 1913
Alf Attiwill	233 Alfred Attiwell	9 October 1911	10 January 1898	Frederick H. Attiwell (domestic duties)	Alfred Street, Mt Gambier	Glenburnie School	23 May 1913
Ern Lewis	136 Ernest Edwin L. Lewis	27 September 1910	7 March 1897	Thomas Lewis (labourer)	Williamstown	Mt Gambier State School	1 December 1911
Colin Poole	201 Colin M. Poole	9 October 1911	9 September 1899	Robert Poole (draper)	Railway Avenue, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	August 1915
Murray Moten	237 Murray Moten	9 November 1912	3 July 1899	John Moten (railway guard)	Railway Avenue, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	
Jack Marks	198 Jack Adrian Marks	9 October 1911	14 September 1899	George S. Marks (mason)	Bertha Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	27 September 1912
Reg Taylor	194 Reginald R. Taylor	9 October 1911	4 April 1900	Walter Taylor (carpenter)	Francis Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1915 (later readmitted)

Note: Colin Chandler and Marvet could not be identified in the Mount Gambier High School Admissions Register and so have been omitted from the list above. If this photograph does show students of 1911 then it is questionable as to why Murray Moten should have been included or if the identified individual is in fact him. Similarly not all enrolled students were present for the photograph

**Appendix 5: Mount Gambier High School 1916**



*This photograph, from the Les Hill Collection, lists the following accompanying names: Bill Boothey, Len Bulling, Sid Smith, Malcolm Brooke, Reg Watson, Jack Watson, Jack Clezy, Albert Norman, Sid Marks, Frank Shaughnessy, Max Lamshed, Jack Raggatt, Cyril Muller, Doris Hay, Kath Bailey, May Walter, Ella Ferguson, Gwen Kemp, Barb Fartch, Isabel Talbot, Melva Lawrence, Gladys Hosking, Janet Rackett, Amy Roberts, Mr Hosking.*

**Appendix 6: Details of Mount Gambier High School students shown in photograph, 1916.**

<i><b>NAME ON PHOTOGRAPH</b></i>	<i><b>ENROLMENT NUMBER &amp; NAME</b></i>	<i><b>ENROLMENT DATE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE OF BIRTH</b></i>	<i><b>PARENT/GUARDIAN &amp; OCCUPATION</b></i>	<i><b>ADDRESS</b></i>	<i><b>PREVIOUS SCHOOL</b></i>	<i><b>DATE OF LEAVING HIGH SCHOOL</b></i>
Bill Boothey	319 William George Boothey	16 January 1915	23 August 1901	Thomas Boothey (carpenter)	Bertha Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	24 March 1917
Len Bulling	349 William L. Bulling	February 1915	1 August 1902	William Bulling (draper)	North Terrace, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1918
Sid Smith	371 Sydney Arthur Smith	January 1916	11 November 1901	Doris Smith (domestic duties)	Queens Avenue, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	June 1917
Malcolm Brooke	376 Malcolm A. Brooke	January 1916	13 May 1903	William Brooke (bank manager)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	15 December 1916
Reg Watson	324 Reginald Watson	16 January 1915	27 December 1899	John Watson (newspaper proprietor)	Doughty Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	June 1917. Entered Dalgety Pty. Ltd.
Jack Clezy	326 John Alexander Clezy	18 January 1915	3 August 1901	Herbert J. Clezy (auctioneer)	Penola Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	2 December 1916
Albert Norman	362 Albert Edward Norman	January 1916	29 January 1902	Cornelius T. Norman (farmer)	Square Mile	Square Mile School	December 1918
Sid Marks	280 Sydney Marks	21 January 1914	2 January 1901	Samuel G. Marks (mason)	Bertha Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	June 1917
Frank Shaughnessy	325 Frank Edward Shaughnessy	18 January 1915	19 August 1902	John Shaughnessy (baker)	Lake Terrace, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1918
Max Lamshed	291 Maxwell Robert Lamshed	27 January 1914	5 April 1901	Arthur F. Lamshed (carpenter)	Rendelsham	Rendelsham School	28 January 1918
Jack Raggatt	334 Jack H.A. Raggatt	18 January 1915	22 December 1900	Albert E. Raggatt (postal official)	Hedley Park	Moonta District High School	December 1916
Cyril Muller	365 Cyril Alfred Muller	January 1916	6 January 1902	Alfred Muller (mason)	Rosaville	Mt Gambier State School	December 1916
Doris Hay	388 Doris Victoria Hay	1 May 1916	16 October 1901	William Hay (produce merchant)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1918
Kath Bailey	339 Kathleen M. Bailey	18 January 1915	17 March 1901	George Bailey (farmer)	Benara Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	15 December 1917
May Walter	340 May E. Walter	18 January 1915	3 November 1901	William R. Walter (furniture merchant)	Gray Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	June 1917
Ella Ferguson	304 Ella Jean Ferguson	21 January 1914	22 March 1900	John Ferguson (labourer)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	15 December 1916
Gwen Kemp	342 Gwen C. Kemp	January 1915	26 July 1900	Clarence Kemp (draper)	Gwendoline Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1916
Barb Fartch	294 Barbara L. Fartch	21 January 1914	26 July 1900	Albert Fartch (grocer)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	18 November 1916
Isabel Talbot	357 Isabelle Talbot	January 1916	10 March 1902	Sarah Talbot (domestic duties)	Rosaville	Mt Gambier State School	15 December 1917
Melva Lawrence	358 Melba Laurence	January 1916	17 July 1902	Henry Laurence (harness maker)	Hart Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 October 1917

Gladys Hosking	359 Gladys Mabel Hosking	January 1916	10 September 1903	William Hosking (land agent)	Doughty Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1918
Janet Rackett	355 Janet Bell Raggatt	January 1916	5 May 1903	Albert E. Raggatt (postal official)	William Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1918
Amy Roberts	387 Amy Roberts	March 1916	22 April 1902	William Roberts (labourer)	Attamurra	Mil Lei School	December 1918

Note: Jack Watson has been omitted from the list above as Reg Watson was the only Watson I could identify as being enrolled at Mount Gambier High School at the time. There were at least three students then enrolled with the given name Jack: Jack Kuhl, Jack Raggatt and Jack Mack.

Appendix 7: Mount Gambier High School 1917



*This photograph, from the Les Hill Collection, lists the following accompanying names: Frank Clayer, Len Bulling, Frank Shaughnessy, Albert Norman, Henry Crennan, Bert Trevorrow, Les Solomon, Alister McEachern, Neil McIntyre, Harry Fletcher, Colin McMutrie, Vic Trevorrow, Charlie Savage, Cec. Kentish, Bert Wicks, Colin Watson, Bruce Clezy, Reg Meldrum, Archie Harrington, Peter Hay, Minnie Cock, Kitty Spehr, Elsie Snell, Rita Dodge, Marie Gooch, Janet Raggatt, Amy Roberts, Gwen Walter, Phyl. Rogers, Vera Linn, Gladys Hosking, Ann Talbot, Cyril Muller, Norm Patzel, John Dunning, Col Heaver, Jack Cameron, Ern Doman.*

**Appendix 8: Details of Mount Gambier High School students shown in photograph, 1917.**

<i>NAME ON PHOTOGRAPH</i>	<i>ENROLMENT NUMBER &amp; NAME</i>	<i>ENROLMENT DATE</i>	<i>DATE OF BIRTH</i>	<i>PARENT/GUARDIAN &amp; OCCUPATION</i>	<i>ADDRESS</i>	<i>PREVIOUS SCHOOL</i>	<i>DATE OF LEAVING HIGH SCHOOL</i>
Frank Clayer	399 Frank Clayer	22 January 1917	1 September 1903	William T. Clayer (engine driver)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Len Bulling	349 William L. Bulling	February 1915	1 August 1902	William Bulling (draper)	North Terrace, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1918
Frank Shaughnessy	325 Frank Edward Shaughnessy	18 January 1915	19 August 1902	John Shaughnessy (baker)	Lake Terrace, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1918
Albert Norman	362 Albert Edward Norman	January 1916	29 January 1902	Cornelius T. Norman (farmer)	Square Mile	Square Mile School	December 1918
Henry Crennan	418 Harry Crennan	22 February 1917	11 June 1903	Harry Crennan (billiard marker)	Percy Street, Mt Gambier	Convent of Mercy School, Mt Gambier	13 December 1918
Bert Trevorrow	401 Herbert John Trevorrow	22 January 1917	1 November 1902	John Edgar Trevorrow (accountant)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	5 April 1919
Les Solomon	414 Leslie Solomon	22 January 1917	22 August 1902	Frank E. Solomon (insurance agent)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	21 June 1919
Alister McEachern	443 Alistair McEachern	19 March 1917	30 June 1902	Annie Matheson (home duties)	Wehl Street North, Mt Gambier	Victorian school	12 December 1919
Neil McIntyre	396 Neil McIntyre	22 January 1917	31 October 1902	Duncan McIntyre (gardener)	Williamstown	Mt Gambier State School	December 1918
Harry Fletcher	391 Harry David Fletcher	22 January 1917	5 December 1903	John Fletcher (farmer)	South Terrace	Robe School	December 1918
Colin McMutrie	413 Colin McMutrie	22 January 1917	19 June 1904	Hugh McMutrie (On Active Service)	Church Street, Mt Gambier	Robe School	13 December 1918
Vic Trevorrow	400 Victor Newman Trevorrow	22 January 1917	5 January 1904	John Edgar Trevorrow (accountant)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1919
Charlie Savage	417 Charles A. Savage	22 January 1917	8 January 1904	A. William Savage (grazier)	Church Street, Mt Gambier	Robe School	13 December 1919
Cec. Kentish	408 Cecil H. Kentish	22 January 1917	28 April 1904	Ernest H. Kentish (milk vendor)	Anzac Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	26 September 1919
Bert Wicks	412 Bertram Wicks	22 January 1917	11 November 1903	Arthur Joseph Wicks (bacon curer)	Yahl	Yahl School	12 December 1919
Colin Watson	409 Colin Weir Watson	22 January 1917	24 January 1903	John R. Watson (printing officer)	Doughty Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Bruce Clezy	398 Bruce Clezy	22 January 1917	15 May 1904	Herbert James Clezy (commission agent)	Penola Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1919
Reg Meldrum	402 Reginald Meldrum	22 January 1917	22 August 1903	James C. Meldrum (bootmaker)	William Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Archie Harrington	404 Archibald Harrington	22 January 1917	13 October 1903	Joseph J. Harrington (tailor)	Millicent Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Peter Hay	415 Peter Wallace Hay	22 January 1917	28 November 1903	James Hay (farmer)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1918

Minnie Cock	424 Minnie Cock	22 January 1917	22 October 1902	James Cock (grocer)	Penola Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1918
Kitty Spehr	427 Catherine R. Spehr	22 January 1917	1 July 1904	Adelbert P. Spehr (produce merchant)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1918
Elsie Snell	441 Elsie Snell	11 February 1917	28 May 1902	Henrietta Snell (home duties)	Wehl Street South, Mt Gambier	Tarpeena School	12 December 1919
Rita Dodge	419 Freda Dodge	22 January 1917	11 January 1903	John James Dodge (engine driver)	Power Street, Mt Gambier	Convent of Mercy School, Mt Gambier	December 1919
Marie Gooch	426 Marie S. Gooch	22 January 1917	11 July 1903	James Arthur Gooch (tailor)	James Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1918
Janet Raggatt	355 Janet Bell Raggatt	January 1916	5 May 1903	Albert E. Raggatt (postal official)	William Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1918
Amy Roberts	387 Amy Roberts	March 1916	22 April 1902	William Roberts (labourer)	Attamura	Mil Lel School	December 1918
Gwen Walter	423 Gwenneth Walter	22 January 1917	27 January 1903	William R. Walter (furniture dealer)	Gray Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Phyl. Rogers	429 Phyllis Rogers	22 January 1917	14 April 1903	Sylvia Rogers (household duties)	James Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1919
Vera Linn	432 Vera G. Linn	22 January 1917	19 September 1903	James Linn (line foreman)	Agnes Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1918
Gladys Hosking	359 Gladys Mabel Hosking	January 1916	10 September 1903	William Hosking (land agent)	Doughty Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1918
Ann Talbot	428 Annie M. Talbot	22 January 1917	1 July 1904	Sarah Talbot (domestic duties)	Umpherston Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1919
Cyril Muller	365 Cyril Alfred Muller	January 1916	6 January 1902	Alfred Muller (mason)	Rosaville	Mt Gambier State School	December 1916
Norm Patzel	394 Edgar Norman Patzel	22 January 1917	23 June 1903	Alfred Patzel (farmer)	Square Mile	Square Mile School	September 1918
John Dunning	390 John Henry Dunning	22 January 1917	11 September 1903	Rayden O.J. Dunning (fruit grower)	Penola Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	December 1918
Col Heaver	442 Colin Heaver	19 February 1917	12 September 1902	Henry Heaver (teamster)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Millicent School	December 1919
Jack Cameron	410 Jack L.P. Cameron	22 January 1917	17 December 1903	Alex A. Cameron (manager chaff store)	Sturt Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Ern Doman	411 Ernest J. Doman	22 January 1917	25 April 1904	John Doman (storekeeper)	Yahl	Yahl School	27 July 1918

Appendix 9: Mount Gambier High School 1918



*This photograph, from the Les Hill Collection, lists the following accompanying names: Les Solomon, Bert Wicks, Reg Meldrum, Colin Watson, Bruce Clezy, Alister McEachern, Charlie Savage, Stan Creed, Jasper Golley, Cecil Kentish, Peter Walker, Laurie Shepherd, Frank Clayer, Arch Harrington, Elsie Snell, May Jamieson, Eileen Moody, Nancy Leane, H.C. Hosking, Dorothy Kilsby, Doreen Cross, Gwen Pasfield, Olive Tucker, Annie Talbot, Phyllis Rogers, Nellie Reid, Gwen Walter, Hilda Carrison, Jessie Shaw, Horace Savage, Allen Thomas, Tom O'Neil, Clarrie Hay, Jack Robinson, Jack Cameron.*

**Appendix 10: Details of Mount Gambier High School students shown in photograph, 1918.**

<i>NAME ON PHOTOGRAPH</i>	<i>ENROLMENT NUMBER &amp; NAME</i>	<i>ENROLMENT DATE</i>	<i>DATE OF BIRTH</i>	<i>PARENT/GUARDIAN &amp; OCCUPATION</i>	<i>ADDRESS</i>	<i>PREVIOUS SCHOOL</i>	<i>DATE OF LEAVING HIGH SCHOOL</i>
Les Solomon	414 Leslie Solomon	22 January 1917	22 August 1902	Frank E. Solomon (insurance agent)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	21 June 1919
Bert Wicks	412 Bertram Wicks	22 January 1917	11 November 1903	Arthur Joseph Wicks (bacon curer)	Yahl	Yahl School	12 December 1919
Reg Meldrum	402 Reginald Meldrum	22 January 1917	22 August 1903	James C. Meldrum (bootmaker)	William Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Colin Watson	409 Colin Weir Watson	22 January 1917	24 January 1903	John R. Watson (printing officer)	Doughty Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Bruce Clezy	398 Bruce Clezy	22 January 1917	15 May 1904	Herbert James Clezy (commission agent)	Penola Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1919
Alister McEachern	443 Alistair McEachern	19 March 1917	30 June 1902	Annie Matheson (home duties)	Wehl Street North, Mt Gambier	Victorian school	12 December 1919
Charlie Savage	417 Charles A. Savage	22 January 1917	8 January 1904	A. William Savage (grazier)	Church Street, Mt Gambier	Robe School	13 December 1919
Stan Creed	481 Stanley D. Creed	4 February 1918	9 May 1904	John James Creed (mason)	Yahl	Yahl School	19 April 1919
Jasper Golley	459 Jasper Claude Golley	21 January 1918	3 August 1904	Zachariah Golley (grocer)	Bertha Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Cecil Kentish	408 Cecil H. Kentish	22 January 1917	28 April 1904	Ernest H. Kentish (milk vendor)	Anzac Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	26 September 1919
Peter Walker	482 Peter D.T. Walker	4 February 1918	13 August 1903	Jessie Walker (home duties)	Yahl	Yahl School	12 July 1919
Laurie Shepherd	450 Laurence S. Shephard	21 January 1918	1 July 1904	S. George Shephard (farmer)	Millicent Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1919
Frank Clayer	399 Frank Clayer	22 January 1917	1 September 1903	William T. Clayer (engine driver)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Arch Harrington	404 Archibald Harrington	22 January 1917	13 October 1903	Joseph J. Harrington (tailor)	Millicent Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Elsie Snell	441 Elsie Snell	11 February 1917	28 May 1902	Henrietta Snell (home duties)	Wehl Street South, Mt Gambier	Tarpeena School	12 December 1919
May Jamieson	472 May Jamieson	21 January 1918	9 May 1905	John L. Jamieson (store manager)	James Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Eileen Moody	471 Eileen V. Moody	21 January 1918	5 August 1904	James D. Moody (engine driver)	Gambier West	Mt Gambier State School	15 December 1921
Nancy Leane	466 Nancy Bishop Leane	21 January 1918	1 July 1904	Herbert E. Leane (engine driver)	Gray Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Dorothy Kilsby	467 Dorothy Alice Kilsby	21 January 1918	19 November 1904	George H. Kilsby (grazier)	Frewville	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Doreen Cross	465 Doreen Phyllis Cross	21 January 1918	3 January 1904	Whynam R. Cross (horse trainer)	Penola Road, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	5 June 1920

Gwen Pasfield	469 Gwendoline E. Pasfield	21 January 1918	6 September 1904	Hubert L. Pasfield (farmer)	Yahl	Yahl School	10 December 1920
Olive Tucker	475 Olive M. Tucker	21 January 1918	30 October 1903	David W. Tucker (sheep farmer)	Gwendoline Street, Mt Gambier	Kalangadoo School	13 December 1918
Annie Talbot	428 Annie M. Talbot	22 January 1917	1 July 1904	Sarah Talbot (domestic duties)	Umpherston Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1919
Phyllis Rogers	429 Phyllis Rogers	22 January 1917	14 April 1903	Sylvia Rogers (household duties)	James Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1919
Nellie Reid	439 Nellie M. Reid	31 January 1917	14 September 1902	Amos Reid (farmer)	Torrendale	Wandilo School	31 May 1919
Gwen Walter	423 Gwenneth Walter	22 January 1917	27 January 1903	William R. Walter (furniture dealer)	Gray Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Hilda Carrison	485 Hilda Carrison	8 April 1918	15 May 1904	George Carrison (manager, French & Son)	Agnes Street, Mt Gambier	Port MacDonnell School	19 April 1919
Jessie Shaw	477 Jessie Irene Shaw	21 January 1918	20 September 1904	Robert J. Shaw (manager, Haughton)	Chute Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Horace Savage	456 Horace Mellish Savage	21 January 1918	1 May 1905	Arthur W. Savage (squatter)	Church Street, Mt Gambier	Robe School	10 December 1920
Allen Thomas	458 Alan Raymond Thomas	21 January 1918	7 March 1904	Archibald J. Thomas (bank manager)	Commercial Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919
Tom O'Neil	479 Thomas P. O'Neill	29 January 1918	16 July 1903	Frank O'Neill (farmer)	Glenburnie	Glenburnie School	12 December 1919
Clarrie Hay	464 Clarence John Hay	21 January 1918	14 December 1904	Peter J. Hay (electrician)	Wehl Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	13 December 1919
Jack Robinson	455 John Douglas Robinson	21 January 1918	4 May 1904	Martha Robinson (home duties)	Mil Lel	Mil Lel School	12 December 1919
Jack Cameron	410 Jack L.P. Cameron	22 January 1917	17 December 1903	Alex A. Cameron (manager chaff store)	Sturt Street, Mt Gambier	Mt Gambier State School	12 December 1919