

VANISHED IN PEACE AND WAR

Probing Mystery Of
Ex-Soldiers

COURT ORDER

THE mysterious disappearance of two ex-soldiers was probed by the Probate Judge, Sir John Harvey, yesterday, when leave was given to swear to the death of Jeremiah O'Donnell, laborer, of North Lismore, and Victor Charles Jones, brick-maker, of Auburn, were were members of the A.I.F.

Evidence was given that O'Donnell was married at Lismore in 1908, and in 1911 his wife gave birth to a female child in a Lismore maternity hospital.

The mother died 14 days later, and the matron became the child's foster mother. O'Donnell never made any attempt to support his child, and finally he enlisted in the A.I.F.

Subsequently O'Donnell went on leave from the trenches to Cork, Ireland, and never reported back to his regiment. Soon after the Irish Revolution of 1914 took place, and it was suggested that O'Donnell had taken part in the fighting and had been killed.

His Daughter

Lillian Stedje Ragnlund, the child of O'Donnell, said she had no recollection of ever seeing her father. The absence of identifying him as her father were her mother's marriage and death certificates.

A letter sent from the trenches by O'Donnell to the matron stated that he intended to make a will leaving his possessions to his daughter. Letters sent to O'Donnell after 1916 had been returned through the dead letter office.

In the second case, the court was informed that Victor Charles Jones had not been seen since October 22, 1926. He had lived with his wife and two children in a war service home, and as he failed to attend a military medical examination, his pension of £12 a fortnight was cancelled on September 4, 1927.

All efforts by police and relatives to trace him had failed.