

*Koby Poulton
Yorketown Area School
Premiers ANZAC Spirit Prize 2018*

Horace Alfred Cadd



"Far away from the land of the wattle, he lies in a hero's grave"
(Australian Infantry Services, 2013)



Horace and his mates

"He was a great pal of everybody and a fine athlete".
(Miller, 2014).

It's 4am on July 31st 1917 and Private Alfred Cadd and his unit are attempting to transport wounded soldiers in Belgium. They waited until 4am to avoid alerting the enemy and to get the men safely to the medic. It must have been dark but light enough to see. All of a sudden there is a crack and Private Cadd knows they are under attack. It's not long until he realises that a sniper keeping watch through the night has shot him straight through the heart.

Yet another example of a brave soldier's life wasted and it must have been the last thing that Alfred and his mates expected when they excitedly enrolled in what they thought would be an adventure.

Horace Alfred Cadd. He was born in Port Vincent, South Australia on the 19th of April 1894 to parents Joseph and Ellen Cadd. After attending the Port Vincent Public School, he spent most of his days helping his parents on their farm in Curramulka (RSL Virtual War Memorial, 2014). Farming during this time was mainly wheat and wool, and even though life on the land can be quite tough, Cadd himself also became a farmer like his dad.

However, Cadd felt there was more out there for him and wanted to see if he could do more than just farm, and so, on December 2nd 1914, he decided to make the trip to Oaklands in Adelaide and enlist in the Australian Imperial Force. (See Figure 1 for Cadd's enlistment form). Cadd had to answer a series of questions and pass a medical test to enlist into the war.

In 1914, Germany and Austria-Hungary formed an alliance and fought against Great Britain, France and the rest of the Allied Powers and World War I began. During this time, the Australian Government was attracting as many everyday men as they could to make them soldiers.

Figure 1
Enlistment form Cadd had to fill out.

It was later said that the campaign was false advertisement and called it Propaganda (Nield, 2018). Maybe if these men had known how bad it was going to be, they would have chosen to stay home.

In the early days of 1914, there were that many men volunteering to fight in World War I that they had to turn many of them away (see Figure 2). But only two years later, with so many men not returning from war alive, the volunteers had dropped off and they hit a shortage of soldiers (Australian War Memorial, 1998).

The 1st of April 1915 was an April Fool's Day that 21 year old Cadd would never forget, as he embarked from Port Lincoln on the HMAS A17 with a shipload of innocent troops. They disembarked in Belgium and quickly found out what they were up against (The AIF Project, 2016).



Figure 2
Crowds of the men and women who wished to enrol in the war.

On the 8th of August 1915, Cadd arrived in Gallipoli and joined the 3rd Light Horse Regiment. During his time in the Light Horse Regiment, he was admitted to hospital six times with several different illnesses including mumps, rheumatism and pylbitis, but always returned to the field as soon as he was well. At one stage, he suffered so badly from pylbitis from spending so much time in the trenches, cramped in small areas, that he was shipped from Cairo Hospital to England for treatment and rehabilitation which took several months. In June 1917, he was well enough to return to his battalion in France, shortly after he was promoted to Lance Corporal and again in July, he was promoted to Sergeant for only a short time before he sadly died in battle (Australian War Memorial, 1998).

It's now known as The Battle of Messines and the stories from the battle are still told today. The rugged landscape of Messines in Belgium made war very difficult for the soldiers. The temperatures went from cold, to freezing changing the landscape so much that they could hardly move in the slushy mud. They had to deal with heat and humidity that made their time in the trenches almost unbearable and led to illness with corpses that lay amongst the soldiers. As Figure 3 shows, everywhere they looked all they could see was the leftovers of nature destroyed by endless bombing. There were holes and trenches everywhere that were used all through World War I. Even though these trenches meant the battlefield was dangerous it also saved lives and became one of the most important tools for the soldiers and eventually gave them their nickname of "Diggers" (Nield, 2018).



Figure 3
Ruins from the Battle of Messines

The Diggers dug trenches that ended up being their home for long periods of time. This alone was hard and more than they bargained for but it gave them a shield where they could attack from and be protected. However, they were visible from the air and bombs did land. When this happened there was nothing to do but run or stay in the trench. Life in the trenches meant there weren't a lot of options for medical assistance and many lives were lost as too many soldiers lay wounded and died slowly. Along with the tactic of using trenches, our soldiers fought for their lives by planting explosives, using projectiles containing shrapnel, rifles, hand guns and of course machine-guns and grenades (Llewellyn, 2014).

Life was tough on the front line for the soldiers but to keep their minds off of what was going on around them they found something fun to do such as playing cards and back at camp they were even able to find a round ball to play soccer with. It was important for the troops to stay happy and even though food wasn't fancy, they used what they had well. They had beef, pork, lamb, chicken and dull flavorless canned food. To pass the time, they wrote letters to loved ones. It's something the soldiers made time to do and historians are still using them today to get a picture of what it was like. appendix to the assignment are some of the letters from Alfred's mother, which also show how hard it must have for the families at home not knowing whether their sons were alive. (Nield, 2018).



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P08372.001

"To Dear Mum with Love Alf XX / these are my to (sic) mates." (RSL War Memorial, n.d.)

During his time at war Cadd was promoted from Private to Sergeant and on his last day as a Sergeant he took off on his last mission at 4am on July 31st 1917 in an attempt to transport the wounded and never made it back.

Looking at the records (See Figure 4 and 5), even though Cadd died in July, his family wasn't notified of his death until November 1917 and Mrs. Joseph Cadd has asked to see a photograph of his grave as proof of his death. An appendix is attached which also show that she couldn't accept the news and asked the Red Cross to do their own search to be sure.

Figure 4 is a form from the Australian Red Cross Society, dated 1917. It contains the following information:

- Form C.**
- South Australian Division**
- REG. & C. 43rd Battalion**
- NAME: Horace Alfred Cadd**
- RANK: Sgt.**
- ADDRESS: Port Vincent**
- Next of Kin: Mrs. Joseph Cadd**
- Other Information: "Killed in action", 31st July, 1917.**
- Other Information: "Inquirer also made direct inquiry to London"**
- Other Information: "Write Commissioners for all available particulars relative to soldier's death and burial - Photograph of grave desired by mother" - as above.**
- Other Information: "Call Again YES NO"**

Figure 4
(Australian Red Cross Society, 1917)

Figure 5 is a letter inventory from the Australian Infantry Services, dated 1917. It contains the following information:

- No. 863**
- NAME: Horace Alfred Cadd**
- REG. & C. 43rd Battalion**
- RANK: Sgt.**
- ADDRESS: Port Vincent**
- Next of Kin: Mrs. Joseph Cadd**
- Other Information: "Letter acknowledged"**
- Other Information: "P/Cable forwarded Comms. London"**
- Other Information: "Reply from M^{rs} Cadd"**
- Other Information: "Letter received from Comms. copy of same sent Inquirer"**
- Other Information: "Letter of thanks from Inquirer"**
- Other Information: "Further info from Comms. Information therein sent Inquirer"**
- Other Information: "Letter of thanks from Inquirer"**
- Other Information: "Letter received from Inquirer. Acknowledged"**

Figure 5
Letter inventory (Australian Infantry Services, 1917).

Sergeant Cadd was honored for his bravery and received the Military Medal for “Bravery in Action” on 24th June 1917 during the Battle of Messines. He also received the British War Medal, Memorial Scroll, the Victory Medal and the Memorial Plaque. Cadd only had his Military Medal for 37 days before his death but this medal has been kept in his family. In July 2017, The Australian newspaper interviewed John Cadd, the nephew of Alfred Cadd. John (see Figure 6) talked about how it may have been 100 years ago but it’s still very close to his heart. He now wears these medals to every ANZAC Day service to pay his respects to his Uncle Alfred. They can also visit the Australian National War Memorial, Roll of Honour, Port Vincent War Memorial and at the Ypres Menin Gate Memorial in France where he is remembered.



Figure 6
John Cadd holding picture of Horace Alfred Cadd and wearing his medals
(Millard & Faulkner, 2017)

Part B:

Horace Alfred Cadd is what I believe to be one of the most courageous soldiers. His courage was especially proven the day that he died. There he was, courageously fighting on the front line, risking his life every moment, but on the 31st of July 1917, Alfred went beyond what was expected of him as a soldier and put his own life on the line to try and transport his injured mates to safety and medical help. He deserved the medals that he was awarded because he showed courage and bravery and mate ship which are all key factors of being a leader, a mate and showing the ANZAC Spirit

He was obviously a good soldier, being promoted to Sergeant shows that, but he was also known to be “*by far the best soldier in his Battalion*” (RSL War Memorial, n.d.) by his fellow soldiers and mates. When his mother didn’t believe her son was dead she asked the Red Cross to search for him. So the Red Cross asked the soldiers in his Battalion that were still alive to write a letter explaining how he died so that she could be convinced that he was dead. When they wrote their letters they also had nothing but great things to say about her son and how his Battalion appreciated him (You can see some of these letters attached in the clear folder).

For example, being awarded the Military Medal would not be an easy task. The Military Medal was awarded for “acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire”. you could just imagine how hard he would have worked on the front line to be presented with such a thing. He would have had to put his life on the line while protecting the other soldiers with all of his might.

It was quite sad researching this brave soldier because Horace Alfred Cadd was killed while trying to save someone else. The only thing that Cadd wanted to do was help the wounded soldiers but instead, he and his unit were attacked and Cadd was shot in the heart by a sniper. Instead of aiming guns, I think more people should aim to be more like Cadd. He was brave. He was a nice man and most of all, he was courageous.

Cadd should not have died that day, but everybody that knew him would have known him as a great human being and that he died helping somebody else. He didn’t die fighting on the front line trying to prove himself; he died doing something that would save others’ lives as well as fighting for his country.

Bibliography

- Australian Infantry Services, 1917. *NO.853 Sergeant H. A. Cadd Letter Inventory*. [Online]
Available at: http://images.slsa.sa.gov.au/sarcib/SRG76_1_4449.pdf
[Accessed 2018].
- Australian Infantry Services, 2013. *WWI Pictorial Honor Roll of New South Wales*. [Online].
- Australian Red Cross Society, 1917. *State Library of South Australia*. [Online]
Available at: http://images.slsa.sa.gov.au/sarcib/SRG76_1_4449.pdf
- Australian War Memorial, 1998. *Conscription during the First World War 1914–18*. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/conscription/ww1>
[Accessed 2018].
- Llewellyn, J., 2014. *Weapons of World War 1*. [Online]
Available at: <http://alphahistory.com/worldwar1/weapons/>
[Accessed 2018].
- Millard, R. & Faulkner, A., 2017. Horrors of Passchendaele 100 years ago still raw for some. *The Australian*, 29th July.
- Miller, J., 2014. *Horace Alfred Cadd - Biography*. [Online]
Available at: <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/272062>
[Accessed 2018].
- Miller, J., n.d. *Horace Alfred (AIF) CADD MM*. [Online]
Available at: <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/272062>
- Nield, J., 2018. *Education Co-ordinator at Army Museum of South Australia Keswick Barracks* [Interview] (6th April 2018).
- RSL Virtual War Memorial, 2014. *Horace Alfred Cadd*. [Online]
Available at: <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/272062>
[Accessed 2018].
- RSL War Memorial, n.d. *RSL Virtual War Memorial*. [Online].
- The AIF Project, 2016. *Horace Alfred Cadd*. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=42592>
[Accessed 2018].
- WWI Pictorial Honour Roll, 2013. *WW1 Pictorial Honor Roll of New South Wales*. [Online]
Available at: <http://ww1nsw.gravesecrets.net/ce.html>
[Accessed 2018].