



HONOUR OUR FALLEN

Recently, Oxley students played a significant role in a new national programme to engage young people in perpetuating the memory of veterans of the Australian armed services. Shortly before Anzac Day, Oxley students from Year 5 to Year 12 met at the Bowral Cemetery to place a flag at the graveside of each person they had researched, and shared their stories. The opportunity for students to reflect on the lives of local veterans in this way powerfully brought home the impact of armed conflict on the lives of people in our community.



WALTER J ESTWICK

Walter J Estwick was born on the 18th August 1916 in Thirroul, NSW north of Wollongong. Walter enlisted on the 2nd of December in Kings Cross NSW and was in service to the Second Australian Imperial Force for the Second World War. He was a gunner within the 2/3 Tank Attack Regiment. The regiment embarked for the Middle East where it became a part of the 9th Division where elements of the division got caught up in the Siege of Tobruk.

The group then went into battle in El Alamein and on the 10th of July they launched an attack to successfully take important high ground around Tel el Eisa. The 9th division owed much to Australian troops in repelling these counter attacks. The division suffered however heavy casualties, yet they played a crucial role in gaining a victory in North Africa. Although Walter's records have not been cleared, Walter was most likely to be among this group of soldiers, operating the anti-tank guns. He then returned to see service in Borneo and New Guinea, eventually returning home to Australia. He passed away on the 29th of June 2005. *Lest We Forget.*

By Claire Allan (Year 10)



ERNEST HAWKINS

Ernest Hawkins was born in Terrible Vale, Armidale, NSW. Ernest joined the war on the 28th of September 1915, but he didn't leave until he embarked from Sydney on the 20th of January 1916, onboard the HMAT RunicA54. He joined the 18th Australian Infantry Battalion under the Australian Imperial Force where he was designated the rank of corporal. On August 8th, 1918, the 18th battalion participated in the battle that pushed the German axis powers ever close to their defeat. Ernest Hawkins was a part of the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin, in the region of Picardie, France on the 31st of August as well as the forcing of the Beaufort line around Montbrehain on the 3rd of October. It was during this battle that Hawkins was shot, receiving wounds to his chest as well as head. He was pronounced deceased on the 2nd of September 1918, just one day before this battle finished. The battle of Mont St Quentin was the final battle the 18th battalion took a part in as they were training out of line before the armistice was declared on 11th April 1919. Ernest Hawkins was 28 at his time of death and is buried peacefully at Daours Communal Cemetery Extension in Daours, Picardie, France.

By Jasmine Irving (Year 11)

GEOFFREY DIETHELM

Geoffrey Diethelm, was a World War Two veteran who served in the Australian Army for a period of six years. Diethelm was born in Grafton, New South Wales on the 9th of November in 1919.

On the 14th of May 1940, Diethelm enlisted in the Australian Army, in the Sydney town of Paddington. The armed service that Diethelm fought in, was the army, where he was ranked Lieutenant. He was in the 13-field regiment, which was moved to New Guinea, after Japan entered the war, where they fought through the Battle of Buna-Gona.

Six years later, on February the 11th in 1946, Geoffrey Diethelm was discharged out of the Australian Army. 56 years later from retiring from the Australian Army, on October the 1st 2002 Geoffrey Diethelm passed away, at the age of 83.

We thank and commemorate Geoffrey Diethelm for his service and efforts in the Australian army.

By Luca Ritchie (Year 9)

HENRY HARVEY

Henry Harvey was born in Coolamon, NSW, Australia. He served in the Australian Army overseas in France during World War I. His regimental number was 3612 and his rank was a sapper (private). Henry was part of the unit named the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company. The 1st Australian Tunnelling Company consisted of the Royal Australian Engineers, and Harvey's trade was in mining and carpentering. These tunnelling companies were involved in offensive and defensive mining, including placing mines underground in enemy trenches. He enlisted on the 25th of February, 1916 at 44 years of age. Henry Harvey embarked in Sydney, Australia on the 22nd of May, 1916 and disembarked at Plymouth, England on the 18th of July, 1916. He proceeded to fight in France on the 28th of August, 1916. He was awarded a Blue Chevron for service overseas. Henry was discharged on the 12th of September, 1918 in London, due to chronic bronchitis. He died on the 30th of March, 1946.

By Bronte Smith (Year 11)

JAMES FRANCIS FLYNN

James Francis Flynn was born on the 6th of March 1886 in Ramsey, Essex, England. He later moved to Bowral in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, Australia where he lived with his wife Thyra Gertrude Smith. James Francis and Thyra married in the year of 1914 in Bathurst and had one child who went on to have two grandchildren. James Francis Flynn was a lieutenant in the Australian Naval and Military Expedition Force during the first world war. He left Sydney on the October the 2nd 1918 on board the ship SS Melusia. He passed away in 1954 at the age of 68. He is buried at the Bowral Cemetery.

By Leila O'Brien (Year 10)

SERGEANT RICHARD JEFFERY

Staff Sergeant Richard Jeffery was born in the July of 1870 in Goulburn and enlisted to be in the Army on the 5th of October 1914. Sergeant Jeffery embarked on the 28th of November 1914 and fought in WWI. After fighting in World War One for four years he returned to Australia on the 6th of May 1919. Sergeant Jeffery died on the 5th of October 1958.

By Evelyn Crowley (Year 6)



ALFRED ROY GORRIE

Alfred Roy Gorrie, member of the 1st Light Horse Regiment, B Squadron, travelled on the Star of Victoria with his regiment 552. He participated in the Battle of Magdabah among many others. Magdhaba, a village located in the northern Sinai desert, was the scene of an action fought on 23 December 1916 when Turkish forces blocking the route to Palestine were attacked by Major General Harry Chauvel's ANZAC Mounted Division, which had the Imperial Camel Corps attached. He enlisted on the 5th September 1914, left Sydney Harbour on the 20th October 1914. He was born in Brisbane, Queensland, raised in Lindfield, NSW. He was only 19 when he enlisted, he died at 24 years of age.

By Oliver Bragg (Year 9)

ARTHUR DOUGLAS JOHNSON

Arthur Douglas Johnson was born in Tasmania on the 5th of August 1919. Arthur served in the Royal Australian navy. He enlisted in the Navy in 1939 when he was twenty years old. Arthur served on the ship HMAS Penguin. He fought in World War Two. Arthur was discharged from the navy on the 17th of December 1951. He was buried in Bowral cemetery. Next of kin: Dorothy which is his mum

by Ava Ritchie (Year 5)

PRIVATE CLARENCE WILFRED JENKINS

Age at enlistment 18 years, roll title 29th infantry battalion, date of enlistment 7th of July 1915, date of embarkation 10th of November 1915, place of embarkation Melbourne, ship embarked on HMAT Ascanius A11, height 5 foot 6, weight 125 pounds, chest measurement 33-35 inches, complexion fair, eye colour grey, hair colour brown, religion Methodist. Jenkins was a carpenter for three and a half years. Next of kin father A Jenkins, address Mackinnon street Kerang. He was in the army and fought on the western front. He died on the 30 of June in 1953.

By Hunter Ritchie (Year 6)



PHILIP CHAMBERS

Philip Chambers, service number NX17442 was born in Marulan NSW. He enlisted in Paddington NSW on the 27th of May 1940. He was in the Australian army and his rank was private. He was never taken as a prisoner of war (POW). He was discharged on the 19th of June 1945. He later died on the 24th of July 1965. He was buried in the cemetery of Brayton.

By Zane Todorcevski (Year 5)



PRIVATE REGINALD HENRY BALDOCK

Private Reginald Henry Baldock, born on 12th January 1887 in a rural Australian town known as Marulan in NSW, fought in the First World War from 1914-1918 in the Armed service Army and Flying Corps. He was enlisted in Sydney, NSW on the 27th June 1916, provided with the service number 12492. Private Reginald was placed into 4th Fld. Arty a battalion highly regarded by the Australian Army. After the War Private Baldock returned back to Australia to be with his wife Elizabeth Ann Baldock. Unfortunately, he later passed away on the 2nd March 1919 in Sydney at the age of 32.

By Jamieson Greene and Oscar Sanchez (Year 5)

PTE. THOMAS HENRY JACKSON

Pte. Thomas Henry Jackson

Thomas Jackson was born in Birmingham, England on the 8th of October 1902. After migrating to Australia, he spent his childhood in the Southern Highlands area, eventually marrying and residing in the Avoca area. After the onset of WWII, Jackson consolidated his medical knowledge and enlisted on August 4th, 1941 at Paddington, aged 38. He was previously working as a farm hand.

Jackson was placed in the 2/9 Field Ambulance group, ranking as Pte. However, shortly after arriving in the Malayan/Singapore area being dominated by the Japanese, he went missing on 16th February, 1942. He was later recorded to have been taken a POW at the Changi camp, controlled by the Japanese. After 50,000 British and Australian troops surrendered in mid-February, the Japanese assembled them at the Changi prisons on Singapore island. They were provided only meagre portions of rice to subsist on, and so many of the prisoners started cultivating vegetables. Jackson was one of over 22,000 Australian servicemen taken a POW by the Japanese. The camp was mainly maintained by the troops within, who were largely left alone by the Japanese except when labourers were needed.

By September 5th, 1945, the Changi camp had been liberated. Jackson was returned to Australia and discharged from the AIF on December 21st, 1945 on compassionate grounds.

By Ben Ahearn (Year 10)



WALTER B DONOGHUE

Although little can be found out about the life of Walter B Donoghue, it has been ascertained that he was born on the 16th July, 1922 in Bowral. His childhood is not mentioned, however he enlisted to serve in the AIF in Sydney on 24th Apr 1942. Donoghue was assigned to the RAAF. It seems he enlisted to serve for the RAAF sometime close to the end of the Second World War, as he was promoted to a Flying Officer on the 30th November 1945, and then later progressed to the rank of Flight Lieutenant on June 1st, 1947. He survived the war, returned to Australia sometime after 1947 and was discharged on the 2nd Nov 1948. Thomas married Thelma Lee on the 19th February 1949 in the Southern Highlands. Donoghue passed away on the 2nd October, 2002, aged 80.

The RAAF played a pivotal role during WWII, as it rapidly expanded from almost 12 squadrons to an incredible 76 squadrons. Australian pilots served in every theatre of war, but especially Europe and the Middle East. However, the squadrons commonly suffered tragic losses of lives, for example one squadron had an official establishment of about 200 aircrew and yet had 1,018 combat deaths. The squadron was therefore effectively wiped out five times over. At the end of WWII the RAAF was the world's 4th largest airforce.

By Claire Allan (Year 10)



WILLIAM JOLLOW

William Jollow

Name: JOLLOW, WILLIAM GEORGE

Service: Australian Army

Date of Birth: 31 Jan 1920

Place of Birth: SPENCER, NSW

Date of Enlistment: 7 July 1942

Locality on Enlistment: GOSFORD, NSW

Place of Enlistment: DAPTO, NSW

Date of Discharge: 2 April 1945

Rank: Lance Bombardier

By Emma Scott (Year 6)

