

THIS EMAIL WAS TRANSMITTED TO RURAL PRESS IN DUBBO NSW IN SUPPORT OF AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED ABOUT THE SEARCH FOR A LOCAL SOLDIER AT FROMELLES. PUBLISHED BY THE DAILY LIBERAL, THE ORIGINAL PIECE REFERRED TO EDWIN 'TED' HUBBARD, QUOTED A DUBBO-BASED MILITARY HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR WHO INTENDED TO TRAVEL TO THE WESTERN FRONT IN JULY, AND REFERRED TO THE 'BATTLE OF FROMELLES ROLL OF MISSING' POSTED BY THIS GROUP. THE OUTLET ALSO SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED NEWS THAT OLIVER MENDELSON, WHOSE GREAT UNCLE BERROL MENDELSON WAS KILLED AT FROMELLES, CRITICIZED THE REBURIAL SERVICES HELD IN FEBRUARY BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF THE AUTHORITIES TO RESPECT THE RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY OF FALLEN MEMBERS OF THE FIRST AIF. BELIEVING THE REBURIAL SERVICES WERE BIASED TO ONE FAITH, THE RETIRED HEAD OF THE LA TROBE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL RAISED THE ISSUE IN THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA TO ENSURE THE MAIN COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE IN JULY WAS NOT DENOMINATION-SPECIFIC, PARTICULARLY WHEN MANY SOLDIERS UPON ENLISTMENT, AVAILED THEMSELVES OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOMINATE RELIGION WHEN COMPILING WWI ATTESTATION PAPERS, WHICH ARE NOW HELD BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR FAYE WHEELER, AUTHOR OF "SEARCH ON FOR WELLINGTON SOLDIER IN FROZEN FROMELLES, DAILY LIBERAL:

Dear Faye,

Refer your article on 1st February, 2010, which mentions Edwin 'Ted' Hubbard. Below is some material which might interest you. The data has been extracted from a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) register relating to VC Corner Cemetery Memorial and the digitized records of the Australian War Memorial (AWM) and the National Archives of Australia (NAA).

The information provided can be checked from these sources by Daily Liberal or Fairfax Regional Network.

**ENLISTMENT DETAILS PERTAINING TO EDWIN ARTHUR HUBBARD:
3327A L Cpl Edwin Arthur Hubbard 53rd Btn [POB Maryvale
(Wellington) NSW; NATIVE Maryvale NSW; POE Liverpool NSW;
OCCUPATION Farmer/Vigneron; AGE 21; MARITAL STATUS Single;
RELIGION Baptist. KIA 19-JUL-16, Panel 7 VC.**

Son of Arthur and Ann Hubbard, of "Seatonville", Maryvale, NSW, Edwin attended public school and underwent training in wheat and stock. According to the Roll of Honour pro forma held by the Australian War Memorial, he had no previous military experience other than rifle practice.

Edwin is also commemorated on Panel 157 in the Commemorative Area of the AWM. His Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files, 1914-1918 War [that is, 1DRL/0428], contains some further information, as do his service papers at the National Archives of Australia.

Having originally joined 3 Infantry Battalion—11 Reinforcements, Hubbard embarked at Sydney on [A14] H.M.A.T. "Euripides" on the 2nd November 1915. He appears to have been taken on strength 53rd Battalion in February 1916 and appointed Lance-Corporal on 12-5-16, after which he undertook musketry and sniper training. He was a good shot and horseman.

OTHER SUBSCRIBERS DETAILS:

Faye, you might like to know the missing soldiers named below were also born in the District of Wellington.

Firstly 2184 Private Claude Ward, 30th Battalion. Ward was Presbyterian, a plumber who enlisted in Newcastle, NSW. Z1351 (formerly 570) 2nd Lt Clarence Collier 53rd Battalion. Clarence was a native of Geurie NSW, a solicitor aged 24 on enlistment. 3543 Pte Herbert Graham 54th Battalion was a labourer, aged 23, who enlisted in Dubbo, though was born in Wellington. 4584 (3512) Pte James Ashley Rodda also of the 54th, was born in Wellington and commemorated on Panel 11 VC.

4420 L Cpl William Craigie 54th Battalion was subscribed on Transport "A60" while at sea, having originally attested on the 26th August 1915 at Dubbo with Service Number 4172.

4789 Pte Robert Grimmond 53rd Battalion, 3507 Pte David Hare 55th Battalion, 3366 Pte Charles Legate 53rd Battalion, 3394 Pte Alfred Main 53rd Battalion, 3553 Pte John Moran 53rd Battalion, 4297A Pte Quihampton 54th Battalion, 4377A Pte Edward Sweeney 54th Battalion, 4323 Pte James Tibey 54th Battalion, 4617 Pte Joseph Wailes (alias Wallis) 54th Battalion and 4744 Pte Albert Bromley 53rd Battalion, enlisted at Dubbo.

4961 Pte Harold Roth 55th Battalion was also among the missing at the Battle of Fleurbaix. He was born at and a native of Dubbo, while 767 Pte John Turner 30th Battalion, was born and attested in Dubbo. 840 Pte George Benson 30th Battalion was born in Dubbo, undertaking enlistment in Liverpool NSW. Roth was Presbyterian, a

clerk, aged 21; Benson aged 21, was single having recorded his occupation as driving.

It is important to note that Z1351 2nd Lt Clarence Collier 53rd Btn, 4420 L Cpl William Craigie 54th Btn, 4617 Pte Joseph Wailes 54th Btn, 4744 Albert Bromley 53rd Btn, 767 Pte John Turner 30th Btn and 840 Pte George Benson 30th Btn, were included in a list released on 2 April 2009 by former Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, which contained the names of First AIF soldiers believed to be buried at Pheasant Wood. Remember though this list was based on an early estimate of the number of Australians expected to be found in the burial pits at Fromelles and this has more recently been revised upwards, with the skeletal remains of some 250 actually now thought to be found.

Of course, these names may not represent all the locals who participated in the actual assault on Fromelles. The soldiers designated above are among those ones recorded at VC Corner Cemetery Memorial, France.

There are still over a thousand missing and unidentified 5th Division soldiers from this battle in local cemeteries awaiting identification.

Hope this helps.

Regards

Grant Triffett, Convenor/Administrator, Fromelles Discussion Group

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