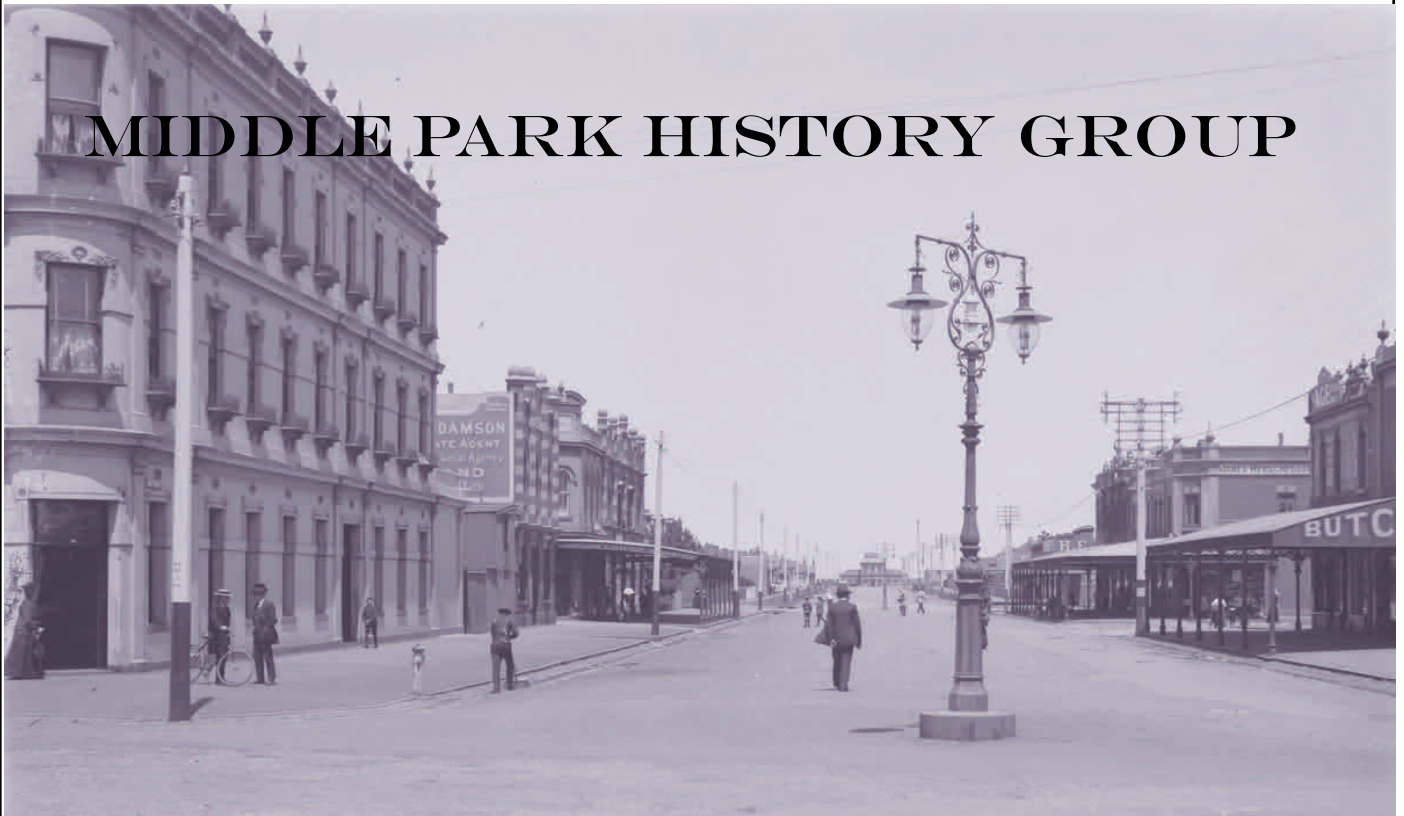


# MIDDLE PARK HISTORY GROUP



## Editorial

This issue marks the centenary of the end of World War 1. It is devoted to contributions by MPHG members on the involvement of Middle Park residents in World War 1. It begins with an overview of the volunteers from Middle Park – who they were, where they served and how they fared. Other articles tell about our own ‘Saving Private Ryan’ story with brothers Ronald and Rupert Doull; what enticed the young teenage boys of Middle Park to volunteer; who from Middle Park served in the Australian Flying Corps; what effect the war had on the women left at home; and Middle Park’s strong YES vote in the two conscription ballots. There are also biographies on four men of note from Middle

Park – John Treloar, the two Honeybones, Frederick and Hugh, and Edwin Peverill.

A fully revised list of volunteers from the area covered by the Middle Park History Group has been published on the MPHG website. The list contains basic information on each volunteer with a link to their full service record. The criteria for inclusion are explained on the introductory web page.

Our regular features have been held over to the next quarterly issue. I thank the contributors and editor Jackie Tidey for making my job easy.

*Gary Poore*

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The Middle Park History Group  
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## Middle Park volunteers in The Great War

### *Edward Boyle*

Nearly 600 men with a connection to the Middle Park area volunteered for overseas service during World War 1 (1914–1918). At least one local young woman also served overseas as a nurse.

#### **Who were the local volunteers?**

Most of the volunteers were born during the 1880s and 1890s. Volunteers had to be aged between eighteen and forty-five. Detailed information about them can be found in the online Service Records (Refer to the Middle Park History Group's website under World War 1).

- Only 137 were born in the then City of South Melbourne, which included Albert Park and Middle Park;
- 175 were born in other Melbourne suburbs;
- 153 were born in country Victoria; □□ 39 were born interstate;
- 59 were born in Ireland, England, and Scotland or Wales;
- 7 were born in New Zealand;
- 9 were born in Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Poland, Singapore or the United States.

Country Victoria had been hard-hit by the depression of the 1890s, leading to many families heading for Melbourne in the hope of better prospects. The vast majority of volunteers on enlistment gave addresses for their next of kin (usually a mother, father or wife) in the area bound by Canterbury Road, Fraser Street, Beaconsfield Parade and Kerferd Road, which is an indicator of more than a transitory connection with Middle Park. The 1st AIF was a young man's army as the local data shows: 148 were 18 to 20; 318 were 21 to 29; 83 were 30 to 39; and 28 were 40–45. Compulsory part-time military

training had been introduced by the Commonwealth Government in 1911. With several years of military training in the Cadets and/or in units of the Citizens Forces many teenagers were 'chafing at the bit' for the real thing. Some in their mid-teens upped their age on forged parental approval letters for those under twenty-one. Just over ninety gave their age as twenty-one on enlistment; presumably many of these had been denied parental approval earlier.

The volunteers for the 1st AIF were predominantly single men. Only 120 of the nearly 600 Middle Park volunteers were married. Married men as the breadwinners would have been reluctant to put their lives at risk, especially if they had children. The war widows' pension was only half the basic wage with small increments per child. In the workforce women were paid only half to two-thirds of the male rates as wages.

The volunteers were required to state their religious affiliation on the enlistment forms: Church of England, 250; Presbyterian, 106; Roman Catholic, 105; Methodists, 63; Baptist, 18; the Jewish faith, 14; Church of Christ, 7; and Congregationalists, 5. Several others gave the non-specific term Protestant. Volunteers also were required to list their occupation. Around 150 of the occupations listed can be classified as 'white collar' and 450 'blue collar'. Only some 40 listed an occupation/profession that required tertiary qualifications. Just over a hundred registered as clerks with the public service, banks, shipping companies and the like. Victoria was the leading manufacturing state, and Middle Park was close to the port facilities and the adjacent factories and warehouses. The main 'blue collar' categories then were: tradesmen, retailers, process workers, labourers and drivers.

### Where did the volunteers serve?

The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF), with about a dozen local volunteers, fought in the German colonies to the immediate north of Australia during the latter months of 1914. From April to December 1915 the 1st Division, the 2nd Division and three brigades of the dismounted Light Horse fought at Gallipoli. The main battles for the five infantry divisions and three of the four squadrons of the AFC (Australian Flying Corps) were on the Western Front (France and Belgium) from mid-1916 to November 1918. The Light Horse, Camel Corps and one squadron of the AFC fought in Egypt, the Sinai, Palestine and Mesopotamia. The navy was placed under British control. Some Australians on leave in Ireland were involved with the crushing of the 1916 Easter Uprising. Following the carnage of the Battle of the Somme in mid-1916 there were opportunities for advancement. Two young Middle Park volunteers transferred from the 1st AIF to become officers in Britain's Indian Army. Thomas Cook, for example, was appointed captain in the Rajput Light Infantry in his early twenties. Post-armistice some were involved in

quelling an anti-British nationalist uprising in Egypt, and at least one Middle Park soldier, Private John Russell, volunteered to fight with the Russian Relief Force against the Bolsheviks in Russia's 'Whites' versus 'Reds' civil war.

### How did the volunteers fare during the great war?

Close to 420,000 men enlisted and some 330,000 served in a theatre of war. More than 60,000 of these were killed in action or died of wounds received in action. A further 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. For the Middle Park volunteers the figures are 95 dead from 580. Thirty-five of those killed have no known grave. About half of the survivors were wounded, mainly by artillery fire, machine-gun fire or gas attacks. The majority spent some time in hospital suffering from various ailments arising from the extreme conditions, such as: diarrhoea, influenza, bronchitis, pneumonia, enteric fever, trench fever and foot rot. Nearly one in five overall had treatment for venereal disease. In severe cases men were sent back to Australia for treatment at the Langwarrin centre. Their service records show that many of the younger local volunteers required treatment for



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00340

Troops line up at Station Pier prior to leaving Port Melbourne on troopship HMT A40 *Ceramic* (AWM J00340)

venereal disease in hospital at some stage. And there was the largely hidden psychological toll, now classified as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. There were only six deserters. If apprehended they were usually dishonourably discharged, not executed as in other armies. British generals complained that the Australians were an undisciplined lot. While they were not the 'spit and polish' types, they were subject to strict military discipline. The usual penalty for breaches of discipline was a deduction from wages. The service records show that officers were held to exacting standards. Of course, as their commanders pointed out, the troops were highly disciplined in combat when it really mattered. There is a popular view that the colonials were physically superior to their British

counterparts. Taking height as a guide, the service records show that only a handful were over six foot (184 cm). Early recruits had to be at least five foot six (168 cm). The height limit had to be lowered to fill the ranks of the later divisions. Most were well under six foot. The service records sometimes include correspondence from loved ones to various authorities, reflecting the pain of loss, especially for the mothers and wives of the war dead. In many cases there was no information on how loved ones had been killed and where they were buried. Just under seventy of the Middle Park volunteers became officers. Some went on to have distinguished careers in the Army, the Public Service or private enterprise.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E03138

Members of the 24th Australian Infantry Battalion in a trench on the Somme, France, 1918 (AWM E03138)

## Saving Gunner Doull

*Edward Boyle*

In late 1942 the five Sullivan brothers were killed when their ship, the USS Juneau, was sunk off Guadalcanal. Thereafter the United States introduced a policy of assigning brothers to different ships and units. In mid-1944 three of the four Niland brothers, each in a different unit, were reported as killed in action (one actually survived as a POW of the Japanese). The decision was made to find the fourth brother (Private Ryan in the film 'Saving Private Ryan') who was serving in Europe and return him to America. Two and a half decades earlier Australia, and Albert Park/Middle Park, had its own little-known example of saving a surviving brother.

Ronald and Rupert were the sons of Ronald and Eva McKenzie Doull of 119 Richardson Street, Albert Park. Ronald Doull junior enlisted in August 1914 at the age of nineteen with the mandatory signed parental approval letter for those under twenty-one. He had attended Melbourne High School. In line with the compulsory military training for home defence legislation of 1911, he had spent two years in the Cadets. Like so many of the young men who had undergone part-time military training, often still in their late teens, he had rushed to enlist with the declaration of war. On enlistment he gave his occupation as a trainee engineer, so it is not surprising that he was assigned to an artillery unit. After Gallipoli he fought on the Western Front where he was rapidly promoted to the rank of sergeant in the 4th Battery of the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade. He was wounded in action in August 1917. His service record does not provide specific information on the nature of the wound(s).

Soon after turning eighteen, with his signed parental approval note, Rupert enlisted in May 1915 giving his occupation as student. Initially he was assigned to the 6th Battalion, later transferring to the 2nd and then the 1st Field Artillery Brigade as a gunner. His military record

shows that in late 1915 he was on Lemnos, but it is not clear if he served at Gallipoli as the withdrawal was imminent. It is likely that he met up with his brother in early 1916. He also was wounded in action on the Western Front in August 1917.

Imagine the anxiety of the lads' parents as reports of heavy casualties on Gallipoli and then on the Western Front were published in the press. On 24 August 1917 the Doull parents were notified that Ronald had been wounded in action. As well they were notified that Rupert was suffering from 'gunshot wound left thigh severe'. It seems that Ronald's wound was not severe as he was back in action in early September. Soon after, though, his parents' worst fear became reality as they were notified that Ronald had been killed in action at Menin Road, Ypres on 10



Ronald Doull (courtesy Hobsons Bay City Council)

October 1917. That same month they were notified that Rupert was still in hospital but 'progressing satisfactorily'. Grieving for Ronald they would have been praying that Rupert would survive the rest of the war.

On New Year's Day 1918 the following communique was sent from Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London to Rupert's local commander:

'In view of the information which has been received that No.1593 Gunner R.McK. Doull, 4th Battery, A.F.A. (who was wounded on 12.8.17 and is now at No.4 Command Depot) is the only remaining member of his family (except his parents) the other son having been killed in action on 10.10.17, approval has been given for

his return to Australia for discharge. Please arrange with Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in U.K. accordingly. H.D. Wynter. Lt.Col.'

Rupert returned to Australia and was discharged in April 1918, seven months before the war ended.

During 1918 Ronald's parents received two parcels of his personal effects, which included a bible, photos and his wounded stripe. At various stages during the early 1920s they were sent the following standard items: his 1914-1915 Star and Victory Medal; a Memorial Scroll and the King's Message; and a photo of his grave at the Huts Cemetery, Dickebusch, Belgium. Rupert lived a full life for the times, dying at the age of seventy -two.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E00713

Men wounded in the Ypres Battle walking along Memin Road, September 1917 (AWM E00713)

## Teenage soldiers

### *Edward Boyle*

By regulation volunteers for the 1st AIF had to be aged from eighteen to forty-five. Of the some 600 identified Middle Park volunteers for the Great War close to a hundred gave their age on enlistment as eighteen or nineteen. These teenage volunteers were born during the second half of the 1890s. They grew up at a time when the 'White Australia' policy was enforced through Commonwealth immigration legislation. It was also a time when an expansionist Japan, especially after it had defeated Russia on land and at sea in 1905, was seen as a security threat – the so-called 'Yellow Peril'. Britain had formed an alliance with Japan in 1902 to counter Russian expansion in Asia. At government level there were concerns Britain might put Japan's interests ahead of Australia's. In 1908 America's 'Great White Fleet' of sixteen battleships and four destroyers visited Melbourne on a cruise of the Pacific, partly as a show of strength to Japan. Many of the local volunteers as young boys would have attended the grand carnival at Albert Park Lake to farewell the American sailors. The crowd was estimated to be between 200 000 and

250 000. The Americans were hailed as 'Our White Brothers in the Pacific'.

Apart from Japan, there was some concern over Germany's colonisation of islands to Australia's immediate north during the late nineteenth century. Meanwhile, at school the future volunteers were learning about the power and the glory of the British Empire through History and English text-books and the monthly School Paper. Writers like Rudyard Kipling, with his tales of derring-do set in the Sudan or India's northern frontier, were popular. Kipling's poem 'The White Man's Burden' reflected the racial outlook of the time.

The war-time recruitment posters indicate the reasons why so many Australians rushed to enlist. Loyalty to Mother Britain was obviously an underlying factor. Fear of the likely consequences of a German victory was another. Victory for Germany, it was feared, could lead to them leap-frogging through their Pacific colonies to Australia and bringing in cheap non-European labour. And, of course, with the outbreak of war



United States fleet steaming up Port Phillip Bay, 1908 (SLV)





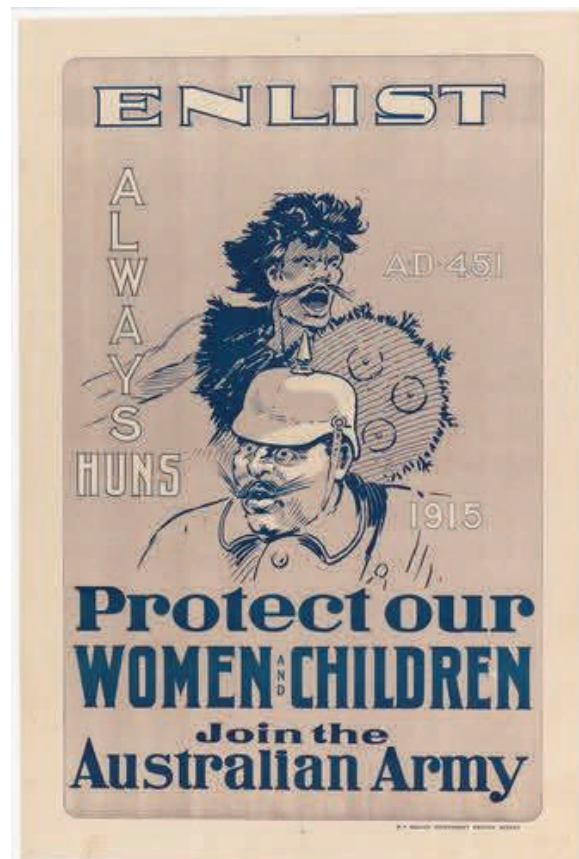
National Library of Australia

the Germans were demonised as the evil, rapacious 'Hun'. While Japan was an ally in World War 1, Prime Minister Billy Hughes was concerned that if the Allies were victorious Japan might claim the German colonies to Australia's near north and continue to press for changes to Australia's discriminatory immigration policy. He wanted a strong Australian commitment to the war effort to ensure a strong countering voice at the eventual peace settlement. As Hughes said during a recruitment drive in October 1916: 'I bid you go and fight for white Australia in France'. Compulsory part-time military training had been introduced at the beginning of 1911, so the youngsters had several years of preparation for the real thing. For them it was a heady mixture of loyalty to Mother Britain, Australian patriotism, the emulation of the military heroes of the British Empire, and the lure of adventure.

Those under twenty-one by law had to produce written parental approval on enlisting. Nearly one hundred local volunteers were twenty-one on enlisting; presumably many of these could not get parental approval earlier. The



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Museums Victoria

military records show a number of cases of local boys under eighteen enlisting with forged parental approval letters.

Edgar Isherwood enlisted in February 1916 giving his age as eighteen. He served with the 57th and 59th Battalions of the 5th Division on the Western Front. At one stage he was hospitalised with trench feet. In mid-1917 he was included in a round-up of under-age personnel. Instead of being sent back to Australia he was assigned to non-combat duties with the 1st Australian General Hospital. Two brothers, Fred and Harry Bainbridge, enlisted in late 1916 claiming they were nineteen. Fred was assigned to the 59th Battalion and Harry to the 60th Battalion of the 5th Division. They must have been shocked by what they had let themselves in for. Both bucked against the system in England with repeated breaches of military discipline. They were not sent to the Western Front. Both were sent back to Australia in late 1917 where they were discharged. Harry's service file shows he was found to be only sixteen, not nineteen, on enlistment. A lad giving his name as Eric Charles enlisted in March 1917 claiming he was eighteen. He was assigned to the Recruits Battalion at Broadmeadows where he received his typhoid inoculation. However, his term as a soldier in the 1st AIF was short-lived. Soon after his father contacted the Officer-in-Charge, Sturt St, South Melbourne: 'The youth who enlisted as Eric Charles is my son Eric Charles Peverill & he will not be 16 years of age till the 4th of August next.' It seems he was trying to follow in the footsteps of his older brother, Edwin, who had enlisted in October 1916. Edwin became a sergeant in the Pay Corps and post-war, in 1937, was appointed Auditor-General for Victoria. Robert Morris tried to enlist in March 1918. The recruitment officers must have had their doubts about his parental approval note. Robert produced a birth certificate proving he was eighteen, but when contacted his parents said no, that he was too young. No doubt there were others with dodgy parental approval letters who avoided detection.

Twenty of the about one hundred Middle Park teenage volunteers were killed in action or died of wounds received in action: Charles

Ballard, Frederick Conway. Ronald Doull, William Duckett, Eric Dunstan, William Durham, Reginald Hannaker, William Hart, Henry Henry, Cyril Jolly, Robert Mackenzie, Arthur Miles, Alan Mckay, Major Ryder, Arthur Sadler, Frank Sell, Alfred Sennitt, John Telfer, John Tytherleigh and James Whylie.

Lance-Corporal John Tytherleigh enlisted in August 1914 aged nineteen. He was assigned to the 6th Battalion of the 1st Division. Almost exactly a year after enlisting he was killed in action at Gallipoli on 9 July 1915 and is buried in Shrapnel Gully. His mother, a widow, was granted a full war pension of 40/- per fortnight. There was a sister to share the grief with his mother.

Private Frank Sell was nearly nineteen when he enlisted in March 1915. Overseas he contracted gonorrhoea and was sent back to Australia for treatment at the Langwarrin Isolation Hospital, so he did not serve at Gallipoli. Later he returned to France where he was hospitalised briefly before being reunited with the 24th Battalion of the 2nd Division on 18 August 1916. Four days later he was killed in action at Pozieres. He is buried in the Pozieres



Private Charles Ballard (AWM DA10817)

British Cemetery.

Private Charles Ballard enlisted in July 1915. He was assigned to the 46th Battalion of the 4th Division. He was hospitalised in July 1916 suffering from enteritis. A few weeks after being released from hospital in early August he was wounded in the abdomen and legs by shell-fire at Pozieres. He died hours later and is buried in the British Cemetery, Warloy, France. His mother was a widow and presumably received a war pension.

Bombardier Reginald Hannaker enlisted in November 1915 at the age of eighteen. Two years later he was fighting in Belgium as a member of the 113 Howitzer Battery. At Menin Road he was wounded in the back and the abdomen by shell-fire in mid-November 1917 and died soon after. He is buried in the Lijssenthoek Cemetery, Belgium. His mother was only granted a small war pension of 14/- per fortnight as her husband was still alive.

Sergeant Ronald Doull's fate is covered in an accompanying article. Information about the others can be found in their service records on the MPHG website under the World War I heading.

What had this costly war far away in Europe and the Middle East achieved for Australia? Germany was no longer seen as a threat. As a reward for its contribution to the war effort Australia was given control through League of Nations mandates of the former German colonies to its immediate north and north-east, in effect creating a buffer zone: German New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, the northern half of the Solomon Islands and Nauru. Similarly Japan was given control of Germany's colonies across the central Pacific. Of course, Japan breached the terms of its mandate, for example by establishing a major naval base at Truk in the Caroline Islands from which Australia was threatened some two decades later. With support from the United States, Australia thwarted a proposal by Japan to have a racial equality clause embedded in the charter of the League of Nations. Such a

clause was seen as a threat to the 'White Australia' immigration policy. So, Australia was not simply helping out Mother Britain in World War I; its own security and interests were seen to be at stake.

Close to one hundred Middle Park servicemen were killed. A fifth of those killed were still in their late teens when they enlisted. The families of those who had made the supreme sacrifice could take comfort in knowing their loved ones had been killed serving their nation in its time of need. However, the pain of loss runs deeper. There is something especially sad about youngsters being cut down so early in life. For parents, particularly mothers, it is the end of their dreams of a happy and productive future for their child with the expectation of grandchildren. Psychologists point to the cycle of grief: shock, denial, anger, acceptance and closure. There is often a further element associated with anger – self-blame/guilt: 'If only I/we had refused to give permission for him to enlist before he turned twenty-one.'



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H06780

Bombardier Reginald Hannaker (AWM H06780)

## Aviators

### *Edward Boyle*

The forerunner of the RAAF, the Australian Flying Corps (AFC), had a humble beginning at Point Cook in 1914 with just two flying instructors and five flimsy training aircraft. The AFC expanded during the war with several training squadrons and four combat squadrons. No.1 Squadron fought in the Middle East and the other three on the Western Front. An army of just over 400 000 was raised during World War 1. Around 330 000 served overseas. Only a small percentage of these served with the AFC: 460 officers and 2234 men.

Some 600 of the 330 000 Australians who served overseas had a Middle Park connection, but fewer than thirty of the Middle Park volunteers, it seems, joined the AFC as pilots or ground crew. Most of the officers and men transferred from units of the AIF to the AFC during 1916 and 1917. Those who became pilots were mainly young men who had academic qualifications. Older men with trade

qualifications, with some exceptions, were recruited as air mechanics. The Middle Park air mechanics included men with backgrounds as motor mechanics, fitters and turners, tailors, and one as a jeweller. A few air mechanics later qualified as pilots.

The stories of two brothers, Leslie and George Focken of 187 Page St, Middle Park, typify the experiences of World War 1 pilots.

Leslie Focken, an accountant, enlisted immediately in August 1914 at the age of twenty-one. He fought at Gallipoli in the 5th Battalion and became a sergeant at 3rd Brigade Headquarters. He was hospitalised with a severe case of enteric fever. When he recovered he was discharged from the AIF in February 1916 so he could join the British Royal Flying Corps (RFC), not the AFC, as a trainee pilot officer. He survived a crash, presumably in training. An old photograph of his crashed aircraft indicates it nose-dived during landing.



Brothers Leslie Focken (photo: Wesley College 1916) and George Focken (photo: AWM C1044197)



Leslie Focken's crashed plane (courtesy Phillip Powell)



Leslie Focken in aeroplane at Croydon (courtesy Phillip Powell)

In July 1916 Leslie wrote to his old school, Wesley College:

'Just previous to the great advance we attacked not only their aeroplanes, but several of their balloons with huge success. Of course, the enemy is very active with anti-aircraft guns, and have on some occasions brought our machines down ... However, the French and British absolutely predominate in the air now, as they do

at sea. Here we fly all day and every day ranging artillery, taking photos of trenches and batteries, dropping bombs, &c, while we only see a German machine once a month ... usually we manage to bring one or two of them down ... I might mention that I have now changed my name from Focken to Fawkner since joining the Imperial Forces.'

Presumably he had copped some teasing at

Wesley with word plays on his name and now wished to avoid further ribbing as a colonial amongst young British pilots who were largely products of the exclusive English boarding schools. His German surname would also have made him the butt of jokes. The 'great advance' refers to the Allied offensive of mid-1916 known as the Battle of the Somme. Charging across no-man's-land in the face of scything machine gun fire tens of thousands of Allied troops were slaughtered, with nearly 20 000 British troops killed on day one alone. Leslie's fellow Australians, including many from Middle Park, now had their baptism of fire on the Western Front, suffering heavy losses at Fromelles and Pozieres/Mouquet Farm. Over the four months of the offensive some one million combatants of both sides were killed or wounded, making it probably the bloodiest battle in recorded history.

It seems that Leslie was deliberately downplaying the dangers airmen faced. Inwardly he would have been concerned about the high attrition-rate for pilots. For example, the German ace Manfred von Richthofen (the 'Red Baron') was credited with eighty 'kills' before he was shot down in April 1918, possibly by AIF ground troops. Soon after writing the Wesley letter 2nd Lieutenant Leslie Focken was killed in action over France on 26 October 1916, five months after qualifying as a combat pilot. His service record does not give details of the circumstances of his death. Officially 197 RFC airmen were killed during the Battle of the Somme. Many, including Leslie Focken, were buried in the Euston Road Cemetery, Colincamps, Department of the Somme. He was buried as 2nd Lieutenant Leslie Fawkner.

George Focken, a Duntroon graduate, enlisted in July 1915 at the age of nineteen. Initially he served with the 58th Battalion of the 5th Division on the Western Front. He was wounded in action in May 1917 during the second Battle of Bullecourt known as Second Bullecourt, suffering gun-shot wounds to an arm and wrist. When he recovered he transferred to the AFC as a trainee pilot officer. In June 1918 he narrowly

escaped death in a horrific crash during a training flight over the Leighterton Aerodrome in England. At the Court of Enquiry Sergeant J.S. Bower testified:

'Just before he crashed I saw him flying in a South-Easterly direction at the South East end of the aerodrome; he turned as though he intended landing, and while turning the machine did a spin, and disappeared from my view behind a clump of trees.'

The court found that the plane was 'totally' damaged and the occupant 'seriously' injured. He suffered severe concussion, a fractured tibia and fibular, and mental instability, which now would probably be diagnosed as PTSD. Further details on his narrow escape can be found in the transcript of the Court of Enquiry into the crash which is in his service record.

Leslie and George's paternal grandparents were born in Germany. Their parents, Charles and Elizabeth, were both born in South Melbourne. Their early years were spent in Hong Kong where their father, a marine engineer, was based. There were four sons: Leslie, George, Charles and Cyril. Cyril died in Hong Kong in 1905 when only ten months old. The next year their father died from injuries suffered during a typhoon. Elizabeth with her three surviving sons returned to Australia in 1908 to live in Middle Park. The three boys attended Wesley College. Charles was born in 1901, so he was too young to enlist, like his two older brothers, in the 1st AIF. News of Leslie's death in action over France must have been devastating for his mother. Imagine her anxiety on being notified just over a year and a half later that George had been seriously injured in a crash during a training flight. However, George was able to return to Australia where he was discharged in January 1919. He eventually recovered to lead a full life, dying in 1984. Charles Focken (1901-1978) was a Rhodes Scholar who went on to have a distinguished career as a physicist and director of the Museum of Applied Science.

Of the 2694 men who served with the AFC 178 were killed, which is much lower than the

death-rate for the AIF. However, most of the casualties were the pilots and their observers/wireless operators. A third of those killed died in training accidents in England. Many of the Middle Park pilots qualified late in the war and saw little or no action in the air. George Murray of 85 Armstrong Street was one of the exceptions. He was wounded in action in August 1917 and returned to Australia incapacitated in November 1917.

Pilots: Eric Aitken, Charles Copp, George Focken, Leslie Focken (RFC), George James

(RFC), George Murray, Leslie Sell, John Treloar and Calvert Wyett.

Support staff: Harry Bate, William Callander, Henry Day, William Fisher, Ronald Gardner, Louis Green (son of Sol Green), Russell Ince, Arthur Jacob, Louis Klein, Herbert Kohry, Donald McDonald, Jack Marsden, John Redman, Leslie Sell (later a pilot), William Steinle, Albert Woodgate, Percy Wray and Calvert Wyeth (later a pilot).

Their Service Records can be viewed on the MPHG website under the World War 1 heading.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL DAAV00053

George Murray  
(AWM, DAAV00053)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P00826.078

Leslie Sell  
(AWM, P00826.078)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL DAAV00012

John Treloar  
(AWM, DAAV00012)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL H12729/01

Harold Bate in a group portrait of AFC Wireless Corps, middle row, third from right (AWM, H12729/01)

## John Linton Treloar

### *Diana Phoenix*

John Linton Treloar was born in Port Melbourne in 1894, the son of William Henry Treloar, grocer, and his wife, Jane Freeman, née Caddy. He attended Albert Park State School where he proved to be an outstanding athlete. In 1911 he joined the Commonwealth Department of Defence as a military staff clerk.

Treloar enlisted on 16 August 1914, aged 19, as a member of the Australian Imperial Force, 1st Division, giving his address as 17 Boyd Street, Albert Park, which was his parents' address from 1913 to 1926. He was single, stating his religion as Methodist. He embarked for overseas on 22 October 1914 on HMAT A3 *Orvieto*. He served as a Staff Sergeant at Gallipoli from April to September 1915 when he became dangerously ill with enteric fever, and was evacuated, then invalided back to Australia on HMAT *Themistocles*. He resumed duty on 16 February 1916 as an equipment officer in No.1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, with the rank of lieutenant. Proceeding overseas again on 16 March 1916, on HMAT A67 *Orsova*, he went to France, via Egypt, in July 1916 as confidential clerk to Brigadier-General (Sir) Brudenell White at 1st Anzac Corps Headquarters.

In 1917 Treloar was selected to organise the Australian War Records Section with the rank of Captain. This task was the basis and the beginnings of the Australian War Memorial collection. He also represented Australia on the Imperial War Trophies Committee. He was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) on 3 June, 1918, and an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) on 3 June 1919.

His marriage to Clarissa Aldridge took place in London in November 1918 a few days before the War ended.

In November 1918 he was promoted to the rank of Major and in 1920 became Director of the Australian War Memorial. At this stage he began

work on the classification of war documents. During the 1930s when the institution was faced with financial difficulties he took over the publication and distribution of the official history of Australia in the First World War.

In September 1939 Treloar was appointed head of the Department of Information, and became Officer-in-Charge of Military History Section at Army Headquarters in Melbourne, establishing the collection of World War 2 relics and documents. By 1941 he was ready for active service again, enlisting on 19 February 1941 at Royal Park, giving his address as 25 The Ridge, Canterbury, Melbourne. He embarked on 11 March 1941, to Greece in an Empire Flying Boat, being attached to Field Ambulance from HQ, AIF. He was promoted to Lieut. Colonel, to be Liaison Officer between the Department of Information, the War Memorial Board and the AIF in the Middle East.

Treloar was mentioned in despatches in 1942. When he was discharged on 18 February 1947 he returned to the War Memorial where he spent the rest of his working life. Dedicated to this enterprise he worked relentlessly, remaining apart from his staff.

On 28 January 1952 he suffered an intestinal haemorrhage which caused his death. The Canberra Times described his funeral, when the officiating minister talked about his singleness of purpose, that he was essentially a soldier, shy, but with strong convictions, unswerving loyalty, and a sense of duty. At the graveside the President of the ACT branch of the Returned Services League described how his life was dedicated to making the nation's debt to her war dead vital and living.

Buried in Canberra Lieut-Col Treloar O.B.E. was survived by his wife and two daughters. The Australian War Memorial in Canberra is situated in Treloar Crescent.

His photo appears among the airmen on the previous page.



## The Honeybones

### Diana Phoenix

Frederick and Hugh Honeybone were half-brothers, sons of John Mitchell Honeybone.

#### Frederick Gaze Honeybone

Frederick Gaze Honeybone was born in London in 1874, the son of John Mitchell Honeybone and his first wife, Catherine Emily Gaze. The family arrived in Melbourne in 1884. By 1888 John Honeybone had set up a hat factory in Middle Park and his first son Frederick eventually worked there. At the time of Frederick's enlistment in the AIF on 13 February 1916, he was living at 229 Page Street, Middle Park, next-door to his father and stepmother. His father had remarried after the death of his first wife.

Frederick was now 42 years of age, married to Mary, whom he claimed as his next of kin. His occupation was millinery manufacturer, and his religion Church of England. His half-brother, Hugh Percival Honeybone, had already enlisted in December 2015 when he was 20 years old. Frederick was posted to 2nd/3rd Battalion as a member of Australian Army Medical Corps, then to No. 5 Army General Hospital in Royal Park on 7 July 1916. He was promoted to Acting Corporal and transferred to Seymour Clearing Hospital before going to Sydney, from where he embarked on HMAT A15 *Port Sydney* on 9 May 1917 for service abroad. He was on his way to Egypt and disembarked at Suez on 20 June 1917. He spent time at Camp Moascar and at Change of Air Camp at Port Said. A letter he wrote from Egypt to *The Record*, the local paper in South Melbourne gives us an idea of what army life was like for him: 'I was up the line and with the 8th Sanitary Inspection for eight months and although not right in the firing line, was within about seven miles of it, and it was quite close enough for me. I was a sanitary inspector ... attached to the 3rd Brigade and living with the 3rd Field Ambulance.

Our duties were to go around and inspect all the lines, cook houses, latrines, manure places and to see the manure was being properly spread and burnt off ... There's no doubt the sanitary sections do good work as they used to point out how necessary it was to keep the flies down and so prevent diseases ... there's not been anywhere near the sickness in this war as in previous ones ...' Frederick Honeybone returned to Australia on the transport ship *Kaisar-i-Hind* embarking on 18 May 1919 and arriving in Melbourne on 16 June 1919.

Frederick was discharged on 31 August 1919 from Unit No.2 Australian Stationary Hospital, Army Medical Corps.

He received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Later he was living at 16 Fuschia Street, Blackburn. He died on 23 January 1949 and was cremated at Springvale.

#### Hugh Percival Honeybone

Hugh Percival Honeybone was born in Melbourne in 1895, the son of John Mitchell Honeybone and his second wife Annie Maud McCracken, whom he had married in 1892, following the death of Catherine Emily Gaze in 1891. John Mitchell Honeybone and his business partner John Ludwig had set up 'hat and bonnet' works in Middle Park in 1888, several years after arriving in Australia in 1884. This later became known as The Hat Factory.

When Hugh Honeybone enlisted at the age of 20 in December 1915, he named his mother as his next of kin. His address was 231 Page Street, where his parents then lived, and his religion was given as Church of England. He was single, stating his occupation as salesman, presumably connected with his father's business. He had

served two years in Senior Cadets. Hugh's half-brother, Frederick Gaze Honeybone, enlisted in February of the next year.

Hugh Honeybone was immediately posted to 8th Field Artillery Brigade (Reinforcement) at Maribyrnong as a gunner, then embarked on HMAT A37 *Barambah* on 27 June 1916, disembarking at Plymouth in England, before proceeding to France. In the following year he was granted a week's furlough, which he spent in England, when he was detached from 3DAC to

8th Field Artillery Brigade.

Hugh returned to Australia on HMAT A30 *Borda*, arriving in Melbourne on 17 June 1919. He received the 1914–15 Star Medal, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His marriage to Winifred Alice Knight took place in 1927. He died in May 1974 and was buried at Springvale Cemetery. His wife, Winifred Alice, was cremated at Springvale on 25 May 1987.

## Edwin Arthur Peverill

### *Diana Phoenix*

Edwin Arthur Peverill was born in South Melbourne in 1892 to Augustus Albert Peverill and Charlotte Elizabeth Vallis, who were living in Palmerston Crescent at the time. The family moved to Brighton for a year then returned to the South Melbourne area, this time to Middle Park; living at 27 Longmore Street (now 295 Richardson Street) from 1894 to 1895, then moving again, to 242 Richardson Street, from 1896 until 1911. Their son Edwin, who had spent his formative years in Middle Park, joined the Commonwealth Public Service in 1908 as a pay clerk.

At the age of 24 when he was already married to Vera Elizabeth Shaw, and living at 39 Page Street, Albert Park, he enlisted in the Australian Army on 5 October 1916 as a pay clerk. He stated that he had served in the Colonial Forces, by Proclamation.

From 17 October until 4 December 1916 he served at 11 AG Hospital, then was transferred to Seymour Clearing Hospital until he embarked for Sydney on 8 August 1917, and from there proceeded to England on HMAT A68 *Anchises* as a member of the 7th Field Ambulance of the Army Medical Corps Reinforcements. Disembarking at Liverpool on 2 October 1917 he crossed to France where he remained until he marched out to England on 11 April 1919. He was then promoted to Sergeant. His return to Australia was on *Rio Negro*, arriving 14 July 1919.

He received three medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal and Star Medal.

On enlistment Peverill had stated that he was an agnostic but later, while serving overseas, wrote to his father who lived in Prahran requesting him to follow up his later request for his stated religion to be changed to Presbyterian. From evidence in his pay book he felt that his request had not been complied with. However, some time later his father received word that the

necessary changes had been made.

After being discharged from the Army he studied at the University of Melbourne, graduating in Arts and Commerce. Then he joined the Victorian Public Service in 1920, working in the State Taxation Office where he rose through the ranks rapidly until becoming Deputy Commissioner of Taxes. He served periods as President of the Association of Old Commerce Graduates, Victorian President of the Commonwealth Institute of Accountants, and President of the Institute of Public Administration. In December 1937 he was appointed Auditor-General of Victoria by State Cabinet, despite the recommendation of the outgoing Auditor-General to give the position to his own deputy Wilton Cove. Peverill held this position until he retired in 1957, making him the longest-serving Victorian Auditor General. Always considered somewhat remote by his staff he maintained their respect as they looked on him as reserved but fair.

Edwin Peverill died at Brighton, Melbourne in 1977. A service took place at Springvale Botanical Cemetery on 14 September that year.



## The conscription issue

*Edward Boyle*

Middle Park enlistment patterns were as follows:

- Second half of 1914 – 80
- First half of 1915 – 66
- Second half of 1915 – 149
- First half of 1916 – 106
- Second half of 1916 – 82
- First half of 1917 – 24
- Second half of 1917 – 56
- All of 1918 – 41

Under the terms of the 1903 Defence Act only volunteers could serve in overseas conflicts. The emphasis was on home defence with the fear that a modernizing, expansionist Japan might invade northern Australia. From colonial times young men had undergone military training on a voluntary, part-time basis. Significant changes took place in 1911. Part-time military training became compulsory for 12–20 year-olds in the Cadets and/or units of the Citizens Forces, and Australia came to an agreement for joint military action with Britain and the Dominions by committing to contributing to an Empire Expeditionary Force to deal with trouble spots. From Australia's viewpoint this agreement would ensure support if the Japanese threat materialised. Research by historian John Mordike has shown that Britain had a secret agenda. It was already covertly making military plans with former rival France in the expectation of war with an expansionist Germany. With its armies spread across its vast empire, where there were fledgling independence movements, Britain's secret aim was to lock in Dominion (Australia, Canada and New Zealand) support for a likely war in Europe.

Constitutionally Britain's declaration of war in August 1914 was binding on Australia, but Australia was free to decide the extent of its

contribution to the war effort. ALP leader Andrew Fisher famously declared that Australia would support the mother country to '...our last man and our last shilling'. Similar sentiments were expressed in the press and from pulpits. The Commonwealth Government immediately raised a division of 20 000 men. With so many men rushing to enlist the recruitment officers could be very selective. For example the minimum height was set at 5'6" (168cm). Before long a second division was filled. The main reasons for enlisting are covered in the accompanying section on Teenage Soldiers. The 1st Division, the 2nd Division and units of the Light Horse were to have their baptism of fire at Gallipoli. During the second half of 1914 80 Middle Park volunteers enlisted.

There were glowing reports of the fighting skills and spirit of the Anzacs at Gallipoli, particularly by English war correspondent Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, whose accounts were savoured in Australia. During 1915 215 Middle Park men enlisted. Post-Gallipoli the Gallipoli survivors and new recruits were organized into four divisions in Egypt: the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Divisions. The 3rd Division was sent directly to England to complete its training. During the first half of 1916 106 more Middle Park men enlisted. Overall, some 800 Australians had been killed during the Gallipoli campaign. The four divisions in Egypt were shipped to France in mid-1916. Soon after, they suffered heavy casualties at Fromelles and Pozieres/Mouquet Farm. A further 82 Middle Park men enlisted during the second half of 1916. The rush to enlist was declining and the divisions could not be kept at full strength with the death-rate, wounds and illnesses, so Prime Minister Billy Hughes saw conscription as the solution. His Labor Party was mainly opposed to conscription but agreed to putting the issue to

1104/044

# THE BLOOD VOTE

"Why is your face so white, Mother?  
Why do you choke for breath?"

"O I have dreamt in the night, my son,  
That I doomed a man to death."

"Why do you hide your hand, Mother?  
And crouch above it in dread?"

"It beareth a dreadful brand, my son:  
With the dead man's blood 'tis red."

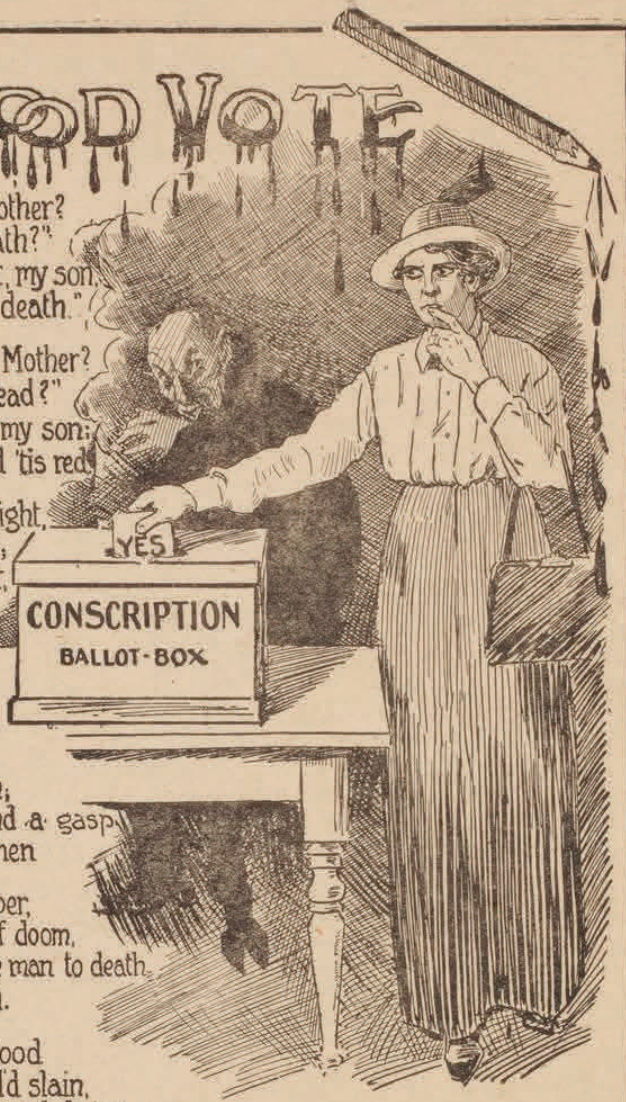
"I hear his widow cry in the night,  
I hear his children weep,  
And always within my sight,  
O God!  
The dead man's blood  
doth leap."

"They put the dagger into my  
grasp,  
It seemed but a pencil then,  
I did not know it was a fiend a-gasp,  
For the priceless blood of men"


"They gave me the ballot paper,  
The grim death-warrant of doom,  
And I smugly sentenced the man to death  
In that dreadful little room."

"I put it inside the Box of Blood  
Nor thought of the man I'd slain,  
Till at midnight came like a whelming  
flood  
God's word—and the Brand of Cain."

"O little son! O my little son!  
Pray God for your Mother's soul,  
That the scarlet stain may be white again  
In God's great Judgment Roll."



*Written by W. R. Winespear, and drawn by Claude Marquet, St Andrew's Place, Sydney.*

 Fraser & Jenkinson, Printers,  
343 Queen St., Melbourne.

For the National Executive,  
J. CURTIN, Secretary.

the Australian people in the October 1916 referendum (technically a plebiscite). A narrow majority voted against the introduction of conscription. Middle Park had a particularly strong 'YES' vote. The reasons for this are not clear. Further investigation is required.

Results of the first vote on conscription, 28 October 1916 were:

Australia 48.39% YES and 51.61% NO

Victoria 51.88% YES and 48.12% NO

Middle Park 56.34% YES and 43.66% NO

1917 was a year of heavy casualties on the Western Front and to a lesser extent in the Middle East. And there was a marked decline in voluntary enlistment, especially for Middle Park. Heavy casualties were suffered during the First and Second Bullecourt battles in April and May. The 3rd Division under General Monash had its baptism of fire on the Western Front at Messines in June. Particularly heavy casualties were suffered from September to November during the Third Ypres: Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Poelcapelle and Passchendaele. During the first half of 1917 there were only 24 Middle Park volunteers and a further 36 during the second half of the year. Already the earlier exacting physical standards for voluntary recruits had been eased. The minimum height, for example, was lowered to 5'2" (158cm). With the death-rate, wounds and illnesses the divisions were well under strength. Prime Minister Hughes was under pressure from the British political and military leaders and the Australian commanders to do something. Above all Hughes wanted to maximise the Australian war contribution to ensure a strong voice at the eventual peace settlement. He was determined to protect the 'White Australia' policy and ensure that Australia, not Japan, gained control of the German colonies to Australia's immediate north and north-east.

The December 1917 conscription debate was even more acrimonious than it had been in October 1916. The grim realities of the war were now well known to all Australians. So many Australians had lost loved ones or welcomed home a damaged family member. The Labor Party had split over conscription for overseas service. Hughes and his breakaway supporters combined with the Commonwealth Liberal Party to form the Nationalist Party of Australia with Hughes as leader.

The propaganda posters and billboards of both sides are striking in their appeals to raw emotions. The dilemma the conscription vote posed for women is considered in the accompanying piece 'The Women Who Were Left Behind'. Nation-wide the 'NO' vote won by a larger margin than in October 1916. While Middle Park again voted "YES", the 'NO' vote increased from 43.66% to 48.25%. The increased 'NO' vote for Middle Park can partly be explained by the Catholic factor. The 1921 Census shows that South Melbourne (which then included Albert Park and Middle Park) had 28% who gave their religion as Catholic against a State average of 21%. The Middle Park parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was one of the strongest in Melbourne. The Catholic leader, Archbishop Mannix, originally from Ireland, campaigned vigorously against conscription. Of course, the five under-strength but battle-hardened Australian divisions went on to have a series of decisive victories in 1918.

Results of the second vote on conscription, 20 December 1917 were:

Australia 46.21% YES and 53.79% NO

Victoria 49.79% YES and 50.21% NO

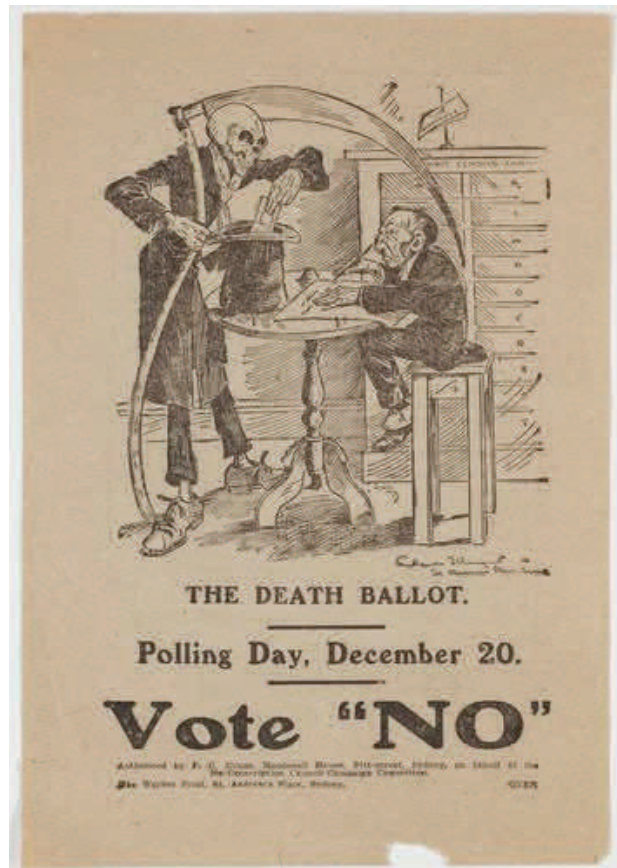
Middle Park 51.75 YES and 48.25 NO



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RC00306

Vote YES poster (AWM, 00306)



Vote NO poster (Museums Victoria)

## The women who were left behind

*Sonya Cameron*

Most of the articles written about The Great War concern the men (and some women) who fought or served. Very little is written about the women (wives, mothers, sisters, aunts, girlfriends) who were left at home to cope without their family member. This was particularly harsh for the wives who had to cope without the breadwinner but also for the mothers whose sons (mostly one, but often two or three) enlisted. Of the nearly six hundred men in the Middle Park study area, one hundred and twenty were married and of these, thirteen died. Many more returned wounded, unable to return to work. Fifty three pairs of brothers enlisted, of whom one died in twenty of the families and both died in three of the families. Eight families had three brothers who enlisted, of

whom three died (one from each) and one family had four brothers who enlisted, one of whom died. In eight of the families, both the father and the son enlisted. One husband was killed and one son was killed. In light of these figures, it is easy to understand the pressure women were under in the 1916 and 1917 conscription votes. If they had already lost loved ones, should they vote NO so that they would not lose any more sons/husbands? On the other hand, if they had already lost loved ones, should not more men be forced to fight so that sons and husbands were not fighting alone? Organisations such as the Australian Women's National League held meetings to urge mothers to let their sons enlist. At one such meeting at the South Melbourne Town Hall in



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RC00305

YES vote poster targeting women  
(AWM RC00305)



NO vote poster targeting women  
(AWM RC00336)



February 1916, women were openly chastised for preventing their men from enlisting. An example was given of a mother whose three sons were eligible for enlistment but she tore up their cards to prevent them receiving them. Such an attitude was 'unworthy of an Australian mother'. In a 'Women to Women' column published in *The Age*, the columnist promised to publish a photo of any mother who has three sons or more who have enlisted, the aim being to shame other mothers into getting their sons to enlist. Thus there was fierce debate around the conscription issue and much of the propaganda published in the newspapers was aimed at women. The two posters on the previous page use the same image but each promoted a different message.

Given that their sons/husbands did enlist, how did the women cope? Communication with their soldier was difficult and often impossible. Families did not know where their menfolk were fighting and were often informed that they had been wounded when in fact they had been killed. Harry Leslie Killingsworth of 141 Canterbury Road, was initially reported wounded and missing, but had been taken prisoner of war in Germany and later died. In a letter to authorities written by his wife, she asks that a tablet be placed on the wall of a cemetery near where he was thought to be buried, and she would like the words "Dear husband of Lou" to be inscribed on it. In another heartfelt letter, the mother of John and Roy Cheverton of 62 Mills Street, Albert Park writes to General Paul asking him, on his return to France, 'to give my young son a place in your thoughts'. The letter continues – 'I am a Widow and have lost my two sons at the War. One fought at Gallipoli and died in England and the one I am asking you about was killed in France. If it were possible I would like a photo of his grave.' Ever respectful to someone in authority, she finishes the letter with a greeting – 'A Merry Xmas to you Dear General'.

In another letter, written by Henry Aldridge, of 253 Danks Street, Henry requests transfer to



Roy Cheverton's Memorial Plaque on The Soldiers Memorial Avenue, Queens Domain, Hobart, Tasmania

the Australian Medical Corps as he is no longer fit for infantry duty. But furthermore, he writes, "my mother is very anxious for me to get transferred, she is at present on the verge of a collapse, through worry and it is in respecting her wish that I apply for this unit, as it was through her that I am at present in the A.I.F. If this application is granted it will, I believe, do a great deal to lift her from the decline into which she is rapidly sinking." [Both Henry and his brother William were under 21 years of age and would therefore have needed permission from a parent to enlist].

Whilst the men were away at war many women felt a need to support them in whatever way they could. Women became involved in volunteerism and fund-raising. There were the women who knitted vests, mufflers, mittens and socks; packed parcels and wrote letters to the troops. The Australian Red Cross Society believed that women's involvement was not only a way of fund raising for clothing and hospital supplies, but also to give the women something to focus on in order 'to steady their nerves and calm their minds'. Whilst there was no Middle Park branch of the Australian Red Cross, the ladies in local clubs such as the Middle Park Bowling Club were very active in raising funds through afternoon teas during local tournaments. They

also held a competition for the best pair of knitted socks with a prize of £1.1s. – with all socks being forwarded to the Red Cross. Another fund-raising activity, reported in *Punch* on 21 June 1917, was a “snowball” afternoon: ‘a series of patriotic afternoons to take place at the houses of different hostesses, the proceeds of which are to go to purchase comforts for the soldiers in the trenches.’ Each hostess would arrange their own programme of activities and invite their own guests. Admission would be 1 shilling and there would be raffles, card games etc. These afternoons were organised by Mrs Elsdon Storey of “Romanby”, Beaconsfield Parade, Middle Park, who would host the first of these ‘snowball’ afternoons. Of a more unusual nature was a ‘cigarette evening’ held at the Middle Park home of Mr and Mrs Richardson. Cigarettes for the soldiers were regarded as a luxury rather than a necessity, so Funds were established, whose aim was to supply Australian-manufactured cigarettes and tobacco to Australian troops.

However, despite ‘keeping the home fires burning’, there was also an economic cost to

those women left at home. The average weekly wage for a man in 1914 was 54s 7d (\$5.45), rising to 63 shillings (\$6.30) in 1917. In contrast, the annual salary for a private was £104 or 40 shillings per week. How much of this was the wife or dependent mother entitled to receive? When the separation allowance was introduced in 1915, the soldier was required to allot at least two fifths of his pay to his wife or a dependent mother, and three-fifths if there were children. In addition, the wife received a separation allowance of one-fifth for a wife living at home and 4½ pence for each child under 16 years of age, but this only applied if the husband was receiving less than 8 shillings per day. This could result in a substantial drop in income for wives left at home to look after themselves and many had to rely on charities and donations to clothe themselves and their children. Those who had older children who could look after themselves might have been able to find work, but the average weekly wage for women was only fifty percent of the male wage. And whilst the higher ranks received higher pay (£1.1s per day for a lieutenant), the majority of married men in Middle Park came from the blue



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00360

Women Sewing for the Comforts Fund (AWM, J00360)

collar occupations and held lower ranks.

With the introduction of the War Pensions Act in 1914, a woman (or a dependent as defined), whose husband was killed, was entitled to receive compensation, the amount commencing at £52 per year and determined by the rate of pay of her husband. She would also receive £13 per annum for each child under 16 years of age – in total about half the annual wage of a man and hardly sufficient to support herself and any children, particularly considering the increase in the cost of living. Should her husband return home totally incapacitated he was entitled to the same amount, as a pension, but initially there was no set amount for partial incapacitation and each case was determined by the Pensions Board. This would have made life extremely difficult, particularly if the wife was unable to work because she had to care for her disabled husband and any children they had. Unmarried soldiers also received a pension if they returned injured but compensation was dependent on the degree of incapacitation and on military rank. The list of Middle Park WW1 Volunteers, which can be found on the MPHG website, has many examples of pensions paid and subsequently reduced. Many of these young men were single and it would have fallen on their parents to support them, probably for the rest of their lives. Another burden many women would have

endured was, once home, their menfolk were not the same as when they left – both physically and mentally. In 1918, the emotional wounds caused by war were not well understood. Whilst physical injuries were compensated, mental illnesses such as shell shock (now referred to as post-traumatic stress disorder) were not and families had to cope on their own. In the list of Middle Park WW1 volunteers only five men have shell shock listed as an injury on their record, but there would have been many more, particularly once the men had returned home and tried to return to normal life. Once again, it would have been the women who had to pick up the pieces, cope with a reduced income, a son or husband who was unable to hold down a job and who had become withdrawn, short-tempered and depressed.

As a final expression of their compassion and need to help the men who were off fighting, a group of women formed themselves into the Port Melbourne Women's Welcome Home Committee for the purpose of welcoming Australian troops, especially the sick and wounded, returning from the battlefields. They pledged that they would welcome the troopships arriving at the Port Melbourne piers for the duration of the war. They were still welcoming home soldiers in 1920. [refer to "Welcoming the wounded Anzacs" by Terry Keenan. 2014]. One might say that a woman's work is never done.



Women's Welcome Home Committee greeting returning soldiers  
(courtesy PMHPS)



Port Melbourne Rotunda - built in 1918 by the Women's Welcome Home Committee in memory of Australian soldiers (Heritage Victoria)

## MPHG activities

### Monthly meetings

At the October AGM we were addressed by Isaac Hermann who spoke about the engineer Carlo Catani in an illustrated talk entitled: Amenity and Adversity Carlo Catani was responsible for re-scaping not only parts of Melbourne, but extensive swathes of Victoria "from Portland to Mallacoota". Some of his first and indeed last works were in our own neighbourhood: the reclaiming and reconstruction of Canterbury Road from its lagoon, the reconstruction of the Military Road - Beaconsfield Parade, and of course the Catani Gardens amidst the St Kilda Foreshore Reclamation.

### MPHG committee

At the Annual General Meeting, held on Monday 1 October, the Executive Committee was re-elected unopposed, with the welcome addition of a new member, Tony Liston. The President, Max Nankervis, who has already served his three years, has re-nominated for a

fourth year but has indicated that this would be his last year. And we have still been unable to fill the position of Secretary. The Committee names and positions are:

President – Max Nankervis

Vice-President – Meyer Eidelson

Secretary – VACANT

Treasurer – Sonya Cameron

Liaison Officer – Diana Phoenix

Committee members – Annette Robinson

Tony Liston

Oral history – Annette Robinson

The activities, as reported in detail in the last Newsletter, are still ongoing. However, the self-guided walks brochures are nearing completion and should be available soon. These walks will cover three topics – *Churches : Past and present; From Shops to Cafes : the Armstrong Street shopping precinct; and Woodcraft in Middle Park architecture.*

If you have any ideas for projects the Committee could undertake, please contact us – and maybe even join the Committee.

## MPHG meeting schedule 2018

Monday 2 December 2018

**Ann Rochford** — The Carmelite Precinct in Middle Park  
Ann Rochford is a parishioner of SJ-OLMC. This year she has been heading a committee to celebrate the Centenary of The Carmelite Hall. Her talk will focus on the history and architecture of the Hall and Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church. She will explain how the current church was built around the first church allowing for services to continue over a lengthy construction time; and the assorted and varied community activities that have taken place in the hall over the past century.

All meetings are at 7:30 pm at the Albert Park Baptist Church Hall, corner Kerferd Road and Richardson Street (entry through OFFICE door in Richardson Street) and are followed by supper.

### Your MPHG committee

President:	Max Nankervis
Vice-President:	Meyer Eidelson
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Sonya Cameron
Liaison officer:	Diana Phoenix
Committee member:	Annette Robinson, Tony Liston
Oral history:	Annette Robinson