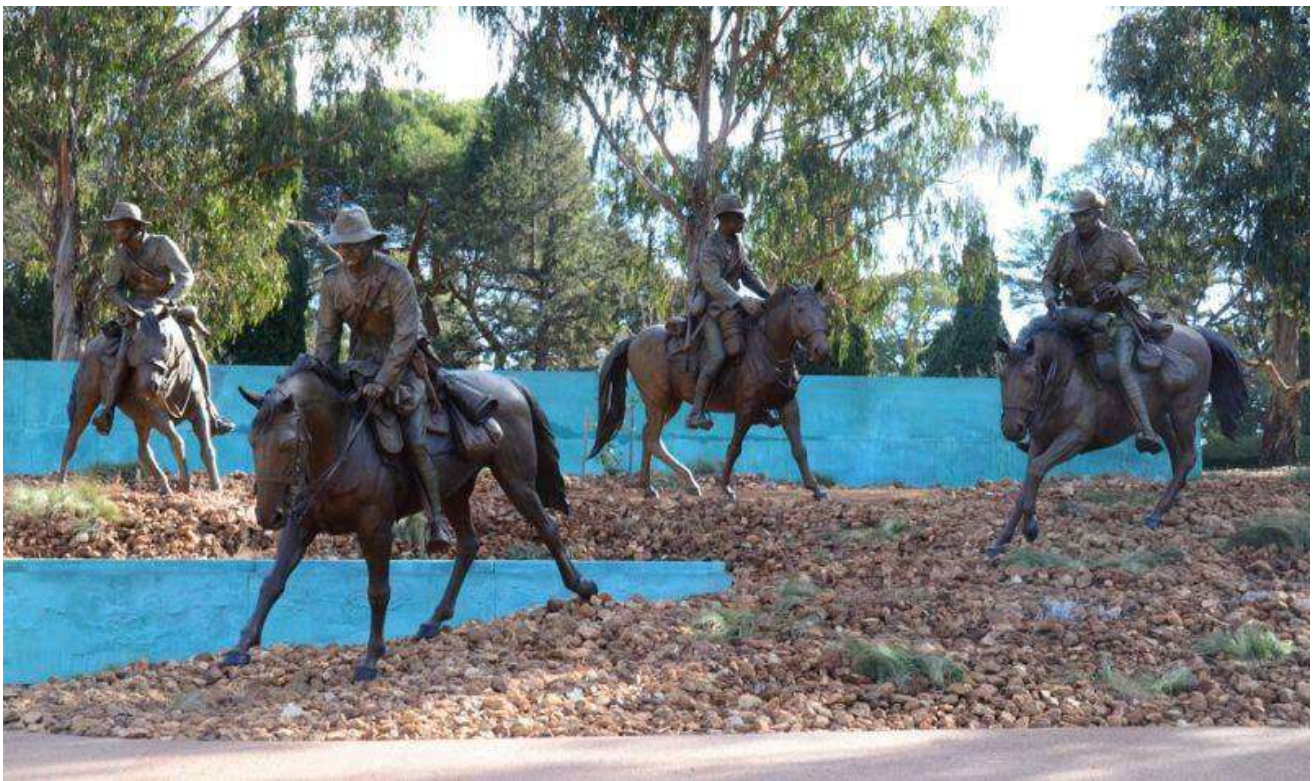


# **Hastings District Soldiers of the Boer War**

**South Africa**

**1899 - 1902**



**National Boer War Memorial, Canberra A.C.T.**

**Port Macquarie-Hastings Library  
2023**



# Introduction

From soon after its acquisition by Britain during the Napoleonic wars, the southern tip of Africa had been shared between British colonies and independent republics of Dutch–Afrikaner settlers, known as Boers. In order to escape British rule many Boers had moved north and east to settle on new lands which eventually became the Boer republics of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. The relationship between the British and the Boers was an uneasy one, with Britain extending its control by annexing Natal in 1845, although London did recognise the two republics in two treaties in the 1850s. Throughout the nineteenth century tensions were often high, and in 1880–81 the two sides fought a war in which the Boers inflicted several costly defeats on the British army. Coupled with the advent of a new government in London reluctant to fight the war, this ensured that the Transvaal was able effectively to maintain its independence.

The discovery of gold and diamonds in the Boer republics in the 1880s further intensified the rivalry, particularly as British subjects flooded into the Boer territories in search of wealth. The rights of British subjects in Boer territory, British imperial ambition, and the Boer desire for to stay outside the British Empire all caused more friction, which in 1899 provoked the Boers to attack in order to forestall what they saw as an impending British conquest.

As part of the British Empire, the Australian colonies offered troops for the war in South Africa. Australians served in contingents raised by the six colonies or, from 1901, by the new Australian Commonwealth. For a variety of reasons many Australians also joined British or South African colonial units in South Africa: some were already in South Africa when the war broke out; others either made their own way or joined local units after their enlistment in an Australian contingent ended. Recruiting was also done in Australia for units which already existed in South Africa, such as the Scottish Horse.

Australians served mostly in mounted units formed in each colony before despatch, or in South Africa itself. The Australian contribution took the form of five waves. The first were the contingents raised by the Australian colonies in response to the outbreak of war in 1899, which often drew heavily on the men in the militia of the colonial forces. The second were the bushmen contingents, which were recruited from more diverse sources and paid for by public subscription or the military philanthropy of wealthy individuals. The third were the imperial bushmen contingents, which were raised in ways similar to the preceding contingents, but paid for by the imperial government in London. Then were then the draft contingents, which were raised by the state governments after Federation on behalf of the new Commonwealth Government, which was as yet unable to do so. Finally, after Federation, and close to the end of the war, the Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents were raised by the new federal government. These contingents fought in both the British counter-offensive of 1900, which resulted in the capture of the Boer capitals, and in the long, weary guerrilla phases of the war which lasted until 1902. Colonial troops were valued for their ability to shoot and ride, and in many ways performed well in the open war on the veldt. There were significant problems, however, with the relatively poor training of Australian officers, with contingents generally arriving without having undergone much training and being sent on campaign immediately. These and other problems faced many of the hastily raised contingents sent from around the empire, however, and were by no means restricted to those from Australia.

The Australians at home initially supported the war, but became disenchanted as the conflict dragged on, especially as the effects on Boer civilians became known.



Men from the 2nd South Australian (Mounted Rifles) Contingent, who fought in the Boer War. Third from left is Trooper Harry "The Breaker" Morant. South Africa, c. 1900.

The conflict in South Africa is generally divided into three phases:

1. The early phase, from October to December 1899, when the British armies, mainly infantry, were defeated or besieged by highly mobile Boer mounted troops
2. The second phase, from December 1899 until September 1900, which involved a British counter-offensive, resulting in the capture of most of the major towns and cities of South Africa
3. The third and longest phase, from September 1900 to May 1902, when the war was mainly a guerrilla conflict between British mounted troops and Boer irregulars.

The outbreak of war had long been expected in both Britain and Australia. Believing that conflict was imminent, Queensland had offered troops in July, and the same month Britain had requested the participation of New South Wales and Victoria. Each of the colonies ultimately sent between four and six contingents. The first groups arrived in South Africa between November 1899 and March 1900; the second between December 1899 and February 1900; the third between April and May 1900; and the fourth between May and June 1900. The 4th Tasmanian, 6th Queensland, South Australian, and Western Australian contingents did not reach South Africa until March–April 1901. A further three contingents were raised by the new Commonwealth in 1901, but as they did not embark until 1902, most arrived too late for any action. Indeed, some were still at sea when the war ended on 31 May 1902.

The first Australian troops arrived in South Africa in December 1899, too late to become involved in the serious British defeats of "black week" (10–17 December), when 2,300 men were killed or wounded by the Boers in three separate engagements. Five hundred members of the Queensland Mounted Infantry and the NSW Lancers took part in the relief of Kimberley in February 1900, and men of the NSW Mounted Rifles played a minor part in the last major battle of the war, at Paardeberg, in the same month. After a series of defeats in 1900 the Boer armies became fragmented, forming groups of highly mobile commandos which harassed British troop movements and lines of supply. Faced with this type of warfare, the British commanders became increasingly reliant on mounted troops from Britain and the colonies.



Conditions for both soldiers and horses were harsh. Without time to acclimatise to the severe environment and in an army with a greatly over-strained logistic system, the horses fared badly. Many died, not just in battle but of disease, while others succumbed to exhaustion and starvation on the long treks across the veld. Quarantine regulations in Australia ensured that even those which did survive could not return home. In the early stages of the war Australian soldier losses were so high through illness that components of the first and second contingents ceased to exist as viable units after a few months of service.



In the NSW Imperial Bushmen camp, South Africa, 1900.

In the second phase of the war, when the British forces captured the major South African towns, over-extended supply lines and inadequate food caused problems. Looting was widespread, and did not stop at the acquisition of bare essentials for men and their horses. Disease and epidemics also took a heavy toll. In early 1900 water contaminated by corpses and human waste infected the army during a period of rest in the captured town of Bloemfontein; 1,000 deaths resulted, mostly from typhoid.

After September 1900, by which time the war had become mainly a guerrilla conflict, Australian troops were deployed in sweeping the countryside and enforcing the British policy of cutting the Boer guerrillas off from the support of their farms and families. This meant the destruction of Boer farms, the confiscation of horses, cattle and wagons, and the rounding up of the inhabitants, usually women and children. These civilian captives were taken to concentration camps where, weakened by malnutrition, thousands died of contagious diseases. By mid-1901 the war for the Australians was characterised by long rides, often at night, followed by an attack on a Boer farmhouse or encampment (laager) at dawn. The skirmishes were often minor, involving small Boer forces quickly overwhelmed by superior numbers. There were occasional fights between the Australians and larger Boer forces, but encounters with Boer commandos were rare.

The experience of the NSW Mounted Rifles in the last five months of 1901 was said to be typical: they trekked almost 3,000 kilometres and were involved in 13 skirmishes for the loss of five dead and 19 wounded. They reported killing 27 Boers, wounding 15 and capturing 196. The men spent long periods in the saddle with few opportunities to bathe or change their clothes; lice were a constant problem. Temperatures on the veld ranged from relentless heat during the day to freezing cold at night.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01866.006

Members of E Company, 5th Contingent, Victorian Mounted Rifles, in action against the Boers in front of the Pongola Bosch, October 1901.

It is generally thought that about 16,000 Australians fought in the Boer War. This figure includes those who enlisted in an Australian unit, as well as the many raised locally, but it does not allow for double-counting of those who served in two contingents. A small number of Australians are known to have fought on the Boer side. The nature of the conditions under which the war was fought can be deduced from the fact that in the Australian contingents, 282 died in action or from wounds sustained in battle, while 286 died from disease and another 38 died of accident or other unknown causes. Six Australians received the Victoria Cross in South Africa, and many others received other decorations.

## **A note on researching local enlistments**

There is very little information available to research details of local men who served in the Boer Wars. Local historian Ian Symonds compiled a book of letters sent by local men from South Africa back to family in Port Macquarie (*Letters from the Boer War. Symonds, Ian 1999*). Ian also published brief details of some of the men who served in the War in articles in the Port Macquarie News in 1991. Apart from these efforts little research is known to have been done into the service records of the twenty-six men from the Hastings region who enlisted in the various regiments sent by the colonial government of New South Wales to South Africa, and whose names are inscribed on the Port Macquarie War Memorial.

The research for this publication was done initially by Sue O'Brien who then passed her research onto the Port Macquarie Library. Library staff members Karen Rowan Hodges and Jeff Stonehouse then continued Sue's work and used publicly available sources to flesh out more details. Sources used included:

Port Macquarie News and other newspapers

Ancestry.com & Find My Past

Australian War Memorial

National Archives of Australia

NSW Registry of Births, Marriages & Deaths

Ryerson Index

Port Macquarie People Database – Rex & Yvonne Toomey

Books held by the Port Macquarie library, including those by Ian Symonds

Using secondary sources to research such a topic is always going to rely on the veracity of those sources. Therefore, while all care was taken in the research process it is possible that some errors may have occurred, so any person who is able to add to this publication or correct any inaccuracies is welcome to contact the Port Macquarie Library.

## Boer War Plaque on the Port Macquarie War Memorial



BOER WAR 1898-1902	
BALDWIN	S.M.
BOSANQUET	L.C.M.
BOURNE	R.A.
CADDEN	R.M.
DOUDNEY	C.M.G.
DOUDNEY	R.A.
HAMPSON	W.M.
HILL	A.J.
HOLLIS	J.
KENNEDY	D.C.
McPHERSON	R.
NOAKES	D.P.
NOAKES	R.H.
NOAKES	W.A.
O'DONNELL	D.E.
RUTHVEN	O.K.G.
RUTHVEN	E.S.
RUTHVEN Jnr	J.L.
RUTHVEN Sqr	J.L.
SPENCE	M.M.M.
STEWART	J.A.W.
TRIM	W.R.
WALSH	O.
WALSH	J.
WALSH	J.
WILLIAMS	T.



## BALDWIN, John Henry (Corporal)

**Service Number:** 483

**Date of Birth:** 12 July 1877

**Place of Birth:** Port Macquarie

**Enlisted:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 1900

**Unit:** 3<sup>rd</sup> NSW Imperial Bushmen D Company

**Date of Embarkation:** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1900

**Embarked Ship:** Armenian

**Departure Ship:** Orient

**Arrival:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 1901 in Sydney

**Parents:** James Henry and Mary Jane Baldwin (*nee* Joyce)

**Married:** Married Agnes Agatha Purcell (1875-1948) at Bathurst in 1903

**Died:** 24<sup>th</sup> June 1948 at Smithfield

**Notes:** Private promoted to Corporal



**OBITUARY**

**Mr. J. H. BALDWIN**

The death occurred in Sydney on June 24, 1948, of Mr. John Henry Baldwin, in his 72nd year.

The deceased gentleman was born at Port Macquarie, being a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Baldwin. As a young man he was well known in the district, leaving here with a special contingent of mounted troopers to go to the South African war. On his return from service, he took up duty as a warder at Long Bay gaol, and on his retirement he was a senior warder.

The late Mr. Baldwin, well known to many local residents, was a brother of Mr. Geo. Baldwin, of Blackman's Point, who is the sole surviving member of a family of six.

John Henry Baldwin [No 18]



BALDWIN, John Henry.—June 24, 1948 (suddenly), at his residence, 35 Marlborough Street, Smithfield, and late of Malabar, beloved husband of the late Agnes Agatha Baldwin and dear father of Mary (Mrs. Dever), James, and John. Requiescat in pace. For funeral see Saturday's paper.

**BOSANQUET, Lancelot George Vivian (Private)**

**Service Number:** 335

**Date of Birth:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 1880

**Place of Birth:** Mackay, Queensland

**Enlisted:** by 4<sup>th</sup> April 1900

**Unit:** 3<sup>rd</sup> NSW Imperial Bushman

**Date of Embarkation:** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1900

**Embarked Ship:** Armenian

**Departure Ship:** Orient

**Arrival:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 1901 in Sydney

**Parents:** Commander George Stanley Bosanquet RN and Jane Mary Margaret Harriett Emma Bosanquet (aka Mary, *nee* Tate)

**Married:** Anne Kennedy (Annie) in 1905 in Port Macquarie and had five children

**Date of death:** 10<sup>th</sup> May 1962

**Place of death:** Pambula

**Notes:** Birth index shows surname as Bosanfuet. Lived at Comboyne. He was in charge of NSW Colonial Defence forces and in charge of Naval Artillery Volunteers and torpedo defences of Sydney Harbour for a number of years. He enlisted again on the 18th February 1916 in the AIF (Service No. 3021 7<sup>th</sup> light Horse) in WW1 and for a third time in WW2 in the CMF on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1940. (for more information see 'Pioneers of Australian Armour in the Great War' by David Finlayson)



## The Imperial Bushmen.

Amongst those selected to go to South Africa with the I.B. Contingent are — Mr. Geo. Lancelot Bosanquet, son of Commander Bosanquet (N.A.V.), of Moorebank, a fine young fellow, who won his bush experience in Queensland; and Mr. Edward McKinley, brother to the well known Constable "Mac," of Smithfield. Mr. E. McKinley, who was born at "Lakelands," Illawarra, is now 26 years of age. He has been a stockman on Tinborro Station (one of the late Hon. J. Tyson's cattle stations), Queensland, for ten years, and has the reputation of being one of the finest riders in Queensland. Besides being a good rider, he is also an all round athlete.

The Imperial Bushmen left Kensington camp for Rookwood yesterday. The new camp is about half a mile from the railway station.

Lieutenant-Colonel MacKay, M.L.C., Vice-President of the Executive Council has been appointed to the command of the Bushmen. He is to select his subordinate officers. He will not resign the vice-presidency of the Council until he leaves with his squadrons.

The Cumberland Argus and  
Fruit Growers Advocate (Parramatta N.S.W.)  
4<sup>th</sup> April 1900 p.2

Mr. Lancelot Bosanquet (married) has left the Comboyne to enlist. Mr. Bosanquet is an old South African soldier, and a descendant of a fine old English family. He is closely related to Admiral Bosanquet.

Richmond River Herald and Northern Rivers Advertiser  
8th February 1916 p.3

## BOURNE, Hastings Albert

**Date of Birth:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 1881

**Place of Birth:** Port Macquarie

**Enlisted:** Joined in South Africa

**Unit:** Transvaal Light Horse

**Date of Embarkation:** 18<sup>th</sup> April 1899

**Embarked Ship:** SS Moravian

**Arrival:** December 1905

**Parents:** John and Mary Theresa Bourne (*nee* McDonald)

**Married:** Amelia Susan Bartier at St Agnes Church Port Macquarie in 1930 and had three children.

**Date of Death:** 11<sup>th</sup> June 1966

**Place of Death:** Port Macquarie

**Notes:** Accompanied his brother James Bourne (James was caught in the conflict and evacuated through the war zone) to South Africa to work as a carpenter. Served with the commissariat department. Previously worked at Hayward and Jennings sawmill in Clarence street Port Macquarie



Hastings Bourne

OFF TO JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. Jas. Bourne who has been on a visit to his parents here for a few months, from Johannesburg, left by the Rosedale on Tuesday morning last intending to return to Africa. He is to be followed in a few days by his brother Hastings, and also Mr. A. D. Woodlands, who are going to try their luck there. All three are to leave by the s.s. Moravian (White Star Line), which vessel leaves Sydney on April 14. Mr. C. Condon left a few weeks ago, and we understand it is his intention to return to Africa, too. We wish these young men *bon voyage*, and good luck in "in the land of the Boer."

## **CADDEN Reginald Naylor 'Reg' (Corporal)**

**Service Number:** 319

**Date of Birth:** 1872

**Place of Birth:** Kiama district

**Unit:** Citizen Bushmen (Corporal)

**Unit:** 3<sup>rd</sup> NSW Mounted Rifles (Lieutenant)

**Date of Embarkation:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 1900

**Embarked Ship:** Atlantian or Maplemore

**Parents:** Hugh Reginald Charles and Emily May Cadden  
(*nee* Naylor)

**Date of Death:** 16<sup>th</sup> September 1923

**Place of Death:** Randwick

**Notes:** Was a member of the Port Macquarie Rifle club

before the war. Served under General Plumer at the relief of Mafeking.

Served 2 years and 5 months in South Africa. Also served in WW1 with 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse



**CADDEN.**—September 16, at Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, Reginald Naylor, late Captain, A.I.F., only son of Hugh C. Cadden, aged 51 years. Western Australian papers please copy. Funeral notice, Tuesday's paper.

### **NOTE:**

The **New South Wales Citizens' Bushmen** consisted of four mounted rifle squadrons and underwent several name changes, from the New South Wales Citizens' Bushmen, to the Australian Bushmen Contingent, and then finally the 1st Bushmen Regiment. The unit was raised in early 1900 and funded by public subscription, hence "citizens" in its title. The objective was to enlist a regiment of men from the country who were "acquainted" with the "vicissitudes of bush life" - good shots, good riders, and good physiques. Preference was given to men who had previously served in South Africa, as well as to those who had lived and worked in rural Australia.

The New South Wales Citizens' Bushmen was the third contingent sent by New South Wales to the war in South Africa. The contingent consisted of 30 officers and 495 other ranks, with 570 horses. The unit left Sydney on 28 February 1900, on board the transports Atlantian and Maplemore, and arrived in Cape Town on 2 April.



## DOUDNEY, Guy Lionel Hastings (Lieutenant)

**Service Number:** 750

**Date of Birth:** 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 1881

**Place of Birth:** New Romney Marsh, Kent

**Baptised:** 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1881 at Romney Marsh

**Unit:** NSW Lancers (Trooper)

**Unit:** 3<sup>rd</sup> NSW Mounted Rifles (Lieutenant)

**Date of Embarkation:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 1899

**Parents:** Dr Edwin Doudney (First Dr at Cottage Hospital Port Macquarie) and Ada Frances Gallagher

**Married:** (1) Helen Dransfield (b.1918) in 1910 at Sydney, and (2) Doris Nellie Ross (b.1898)

**Date of Death:** 13<sup>th</sup> August 1953

**Place of Death:** Cape Town South Africa

**Notes:** Born in England he came out to Australia with his mother and siblings in August 1894. He was in England with the Parramatta half squadron of the Lancers when the Boer War commenced. The Regiment had been in Great Britain where they participated in the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. When war was declared they were transported to South Africa. The Lancers contributed a squadron that had served under John French in Lord Roberts' army, and participated in a counter-invasion of the Orange Free State that eventually lifted the Siege of Kimberley in 1900. He sailed from England on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1899, arriving at Cape Town on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1899. Brother of R V Doudney.



### 1891 Census Devon of Doudney Family at Compton Gifford

Edwin Doudney	Head	M	44	Physician & Surgeon (Registered)			New Spendonham
Ada do	Wife	M	40				Ireland Limerick
Guy L. H. do	Son		10				New Romney
Robert V. do	do		9				do
Hugh do	do		7				do
Guendoline do	Daughter		5				Devon 7 New Romney
James Walter	Visitor	S	20	Living on his own means			London Clapham
Louisa G. Sanders	Governess	S	28	Governess School			Devon Exeter
Maria-Muriel Doudney	Daughter		5				New Romney
Total of Males and Females...				11	20		

## Letter from South Africa.

THE following very interesting letter was received from Lieutenant Guy Doudney (now serving under General Remington in South Africa) by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Doudney:—

"Had a terrible time since leaving Greylingstad; went to bed at the hotel the night I wrote, but could not sleep for fleas. The three previous nights I was trekking most of the time. I joined the column the next day, and marched at night, also the five following nights, from dark till sunrise as a rule, and plant in good cover all day, when it is too jolly hot to sleep. On the 5th day out, we had left the convoy on a chase when it was attacked in force by the enemy. Luckily, General Remington was overtaken and informed, and he raced back with the mounted troops, grasping the situation at once. He sent 'D' squadron to charge a farm-house which sheltered close on a hundred Boers. We fixed bayonets and galloped like fury; the Dutchmen pumped lead for a bit, but would not wait for us, and when we reached the farm they were 400 or 500 yards away on the other side. It was no use chasing them, so we pasted them out of range. We kept an interval of two horses' lengths between each man when charging, and not a man or horse was hit. The attack on the convoy failed. Our casualties were one officer and 4 or 5 men killed, and the Boers' Commandant was found dead with one other.

We camped at midday, and the Boers sniped the camp all day, their guns continually firing. Ammunition running short, and on account of information to the effect that 2000 Boers under De Wet were to attack camp at night, the 'G' gave us half-an-hour's notice and moved at midnight. Raining, no road; 14 waggons got bogged and were abandoned. We blundered on about ten Boers sleeping in farmhouses out of the rain. We camped about 4 p.m., utterly tired out. I had my bivouac pitched, and turned in without waiting for grub, and slept like a log till awakened by heavy firing about 10.30 p.m. The camp was attacked, and the men turned out smartly and kept very cool. About half of the horses stampeded. The 'G' called to the Australians to give three cheers, and everyone started and made the deuce of a row; the firing stopped then; the cheering, I suppose, made the Boers think we were ready for them. The casualties were—three men wounded and about twenty horses hit. I was sent with a troop to strengthen outposts. The men were so tired they could not do their watch, so I had to do it myself; they were not to be trusted.

It rained like the mischief, and we got soaked to the skin. At daylight, instead of the attack being renewed, we found the enemy gone. Intelligence people say that De Wet, with between 800 and 1000 men, surrounded the camp, but from information they gathered from nigger spies, the Dutchmen could not agree amongst themselves and the attack fell through. I suppose none of them would make the rush first. They must have known we were short of ammunition, but how they find out I can't guess.

We came here the following day, and have had two days' rest, or, rather, what is called rest. There is more tomfoolery in a standing camp here than we had in barracks at Aldershot.

The last was the roughest trek we have had as yet, by far, and nobody wants another like it. No more now."



PMN 18<sup>th</sup> January 1902 p2

## **DOUDNEY, Rupert Vere (Lieutenant)**

**Date of Birth:** April 1882

**Place of Birth:** New Romney, Kent, England

**Baptised:** 29<sup>th</sup> May 1882 at New Romney

**Enlisted:** Port Macquarie

**Unit:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse

**Date of Embarkation:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 1902

**Embarked Ship:** Manhattan

**Arrival:** 11<sup>th</sup> August

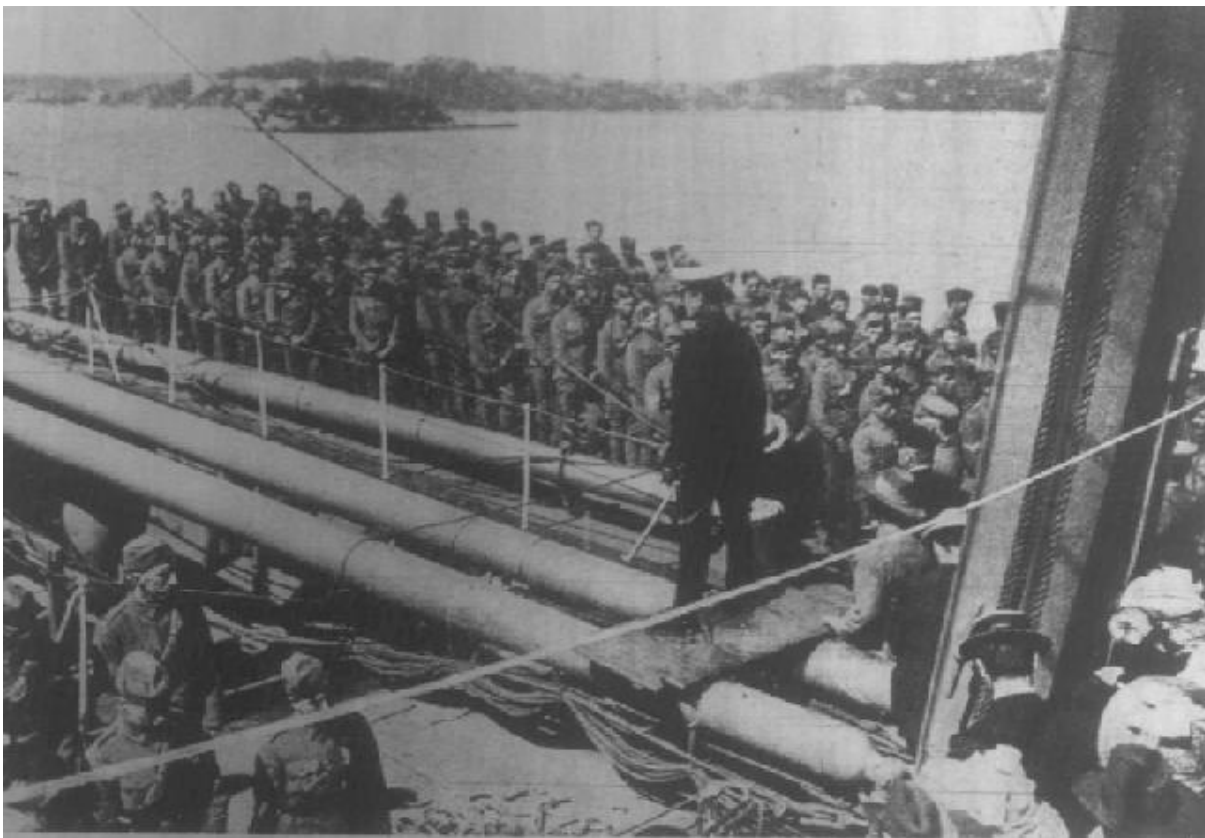
**Parents:** Dr Edwin Doudney and Ada Frances Gallagher

**Married:** Edith Ethel Trimmell in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 1908 in Kent

**Date of Death:** 20<sup>th</sup> May 1950

**Place of Death:** Roehampton, Middlesex England

**Notes:** Son of Edwin Doudney and Ada Frances Gallagher. Brother of Guy Doudney. Born in England he came out to Australia with his mother and siblings in August 1894. He had previous service with the Parramatta Half Squadron of the Lancers. Later served in World War One as a Captain and later Major with the 3<sup>rd</sup> London Regiment and later as Major with the Royal Army Service Corps.



General Hutton addressing troops of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACH prior to departure.



### THIRD BATTALION AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH HORSE.

THIS was formed upon the same basis as the first, viz., three units from New South Wales, one from Queensland, and one from Tasmania.

Establishment, rates of pay, &c., were as for the other regiment.

Applicants to enrol were required to be able to ride and shoot and to pass military medical examination. Only single men were accepted; the period of service being one year, or the duration of the war. Applicants for commissions were required to state age, physique, previous military service (especially in South Africa), occupation, if accustomed to country life and travelling in the bush, whether any knowledge of map reading, and general experience of country life in Australia.

#### REFERENCE TO ORDERS.

Formation ..	..	..	G.O. 27/02
Pay and allowances ..	..	..	" 3, 4 and 14/02 —
Allotment of pay ..	..	..	" 10/02
Equipment ..	..	..	" 4/02
Accounts ..	..	..	" 10/02
Enrolment, conditions of	..	..	" 14/02
Establishment ..	..	..	" 1/02, and 2/02
Embarkation ..	..	..	D.O. 111, of 26th March, 1902
Nomenclature ..	..	..	" 239, of 22nd April, 1902

#### CLOTHING, ETC.

Uniform consisted of F.S. jacket, pants, puttees, and hat. Equipped with rifles, bayonets, bandoliers, saddlery, and fully horsed.

#### SUMMARY.

The staff and head-quarter companies left Sydney on 2nd April, 1902, comprising 19 officers and 352 non-commissioned officers and rank and file, with 372 horses. Six died, 4 officers and 62 others were struck off in South Africa, 15 officers, 284 others returned to New South Wales, arriving on 11th August, 1902.

#### SERVICE.

The New South Wales division of the 3rd Battalion, Australian Commonwealth Horse, embarked at Sydney on transport *Manhattan* on 1st April, and arrived at Durban on 30th April, 1902.

At Durban it entrained a few days afterwards for Newcastle, where it proceeded into camp at Kitchener's Kop, in the vicinity of that town, awaiting orders to proceed to the Transvaal. Here the Queensland and Tasmanian squadrons joined. *Vide* those Contingents.

Upon peace being concluded, the battalion returned to Durban on 11th July, and embarked on transport *Drayton Grange* on the following day. Called at Albany and Melbourne *en route*, and arrived at Sydney on 11th August.

As in previous Contingents, most of the officers, N.C.O.'s, and men had served before. Those who had not were awarded Queen's Medal, with one clasp.

## **HAMPSON, Wright Harrison (Trooper)**

**Service Number:** 490

**Date of Birth:** 1848

**Place of Birth:** Salem, Massachusetts (USA)

**Unit:** NSW Citizen Bushmen

**Date of Embarkation:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 1900

**Arrival:** 16<sup>th</sup> November

**Parents:** Wright Harrison and Isabella Emmeline Hampson (*nee* Reid)

**Married:** Isabella Reid at Rollands Plains in 1870. Remarried to Rosetta Collins in 1891 in Sydney.

**Date of Death:** 29<sup>th</sup> August 1929 aged 82.

**Place of Death:** Sydney

**Notes:** Invalided home. His parents emigrated to Australia from England via the United States of America. Wright and two siblings were born in the USA. The family arrived in 1854 and settled in the Macleay Valley and had five more children.





**HILL, Archibald Usher (Quarter Master Sergeant)**

**Service Number:** 559 (Imperial Bushmen) 364 (Bechuanaland Rifles)

**Date of Birth:** 18<sup>th</sup> January 1874

**Place of Birth:** Parramatta NSW

**Unit:** 6<sup>th</sup> Imperial Bushmen (1yr 9mths) and South African Bechuanaland Rifles (9mths)

**Date of Embarkation:** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1900

**Embarked Ship:** Armenian

**Departure Ship:** Orient

**Arrival:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 1901 in Sydney

**Married:** Kimberly Coralie Alhambra Marsden 20<sup>th</sup> February 1907 at Blayney (NSW)

**Date of Death:** 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1946

**Place of Death:** Blayney

**Notes:** Son of William and Susan Reed Russell Hill (*nee* Glasson). Served in World War One and also in the Citizens Military Forces during World War Two.



Wedding Day 20 Feb 1907  
HILL Archibald Usher 1874-1946

**HOLLIS, Joseph Dowling (Private)**

**Date of Birth:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 1878

**Place of Birth:** Yarras, Hastings River

**Enlisted:** Queensland

**Unit:** 4<sup>th</sup> Queensland Imperial Bushmen

**Service Number:** 117

**Date of Embarkation:** 8<sup>th</sup> May 1900

**Embarked Ship:** Manchester Port

**Arrival:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 1900

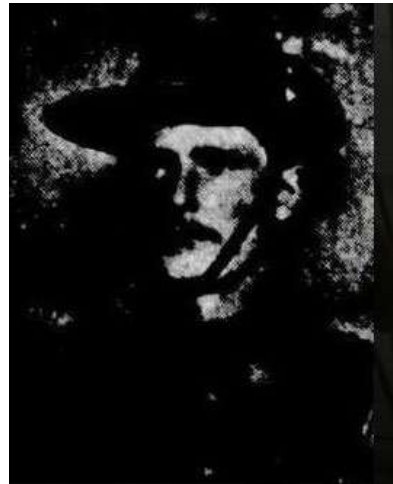
**Parents:** Joseph and Johanna Hollis (*nee* Laney)

**Date of Death:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1959

**Place of Death:** Rockhampton (QLD)

**Notes:** Living in Queensland around Gympie at time of enlistment.

Invalided home, suffered from Enteric Fever



**KENNEDY, Donald Cameron (Private)**

**Service Number:** 156

**Date of Birth:** 1878

**Place of Birth:** Ellenborough

**Unit:** 6<sup>th</sup> Imperial Bushmen

**Date of Embarkation:** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1900

**Embarked Ship:** Armenian

**Departure Ship:** Orient

**Arrival:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 1901 in Sydney

**Parents:** Angus and Mary Kennedy (*nee* Cameron)

**Married:** Ruth Coombes (1885-1979) in 1905 had three children

**Date of Death:** 11<sup>th</sup> July 1947 aged 69. Buried Port Macquarie General Cemetery.

**Place of Death:** Port Macquarie

**Notes:** Son of Angus and Mary Kennedy (*nee* Cameron) of Clunesly. He had a farm called Catarbit/Catharbal at Yarras.



1905



## OBITUARY

### MR. D. C. KENNEDY

The death occurred on 11th July, following a short illness in the Hastings District Hospital, of Mr. Donald Cameron Kennedy, a well-known resident of Birdwood, Forbes River. The late Mr. Kennedy was 69 years of age and was born at Catharbai on the Upper Hastings. A son of the late Angus and Mary Kennedy, of Clunesly and Beechwood, he lived most of his life in the Hastings district, following farming pursuits. In his early years he served in the South African War with the 6th Imperial Bushmen. In 1905 he married Ruth, the youngest daughter of Mrs. Coombes and the late Mr. Edward Coombes, of Forbes River. Later on he joined the Forestry as a Forest Guard, and served for a few years in different places in Northern N.S.W., especially on the Dorrigo and at Coopernook, Manning River. He returned to the land and bought property on the Forbes River. The late Mr. Kennedy is survived by a sorrowing wife, one son, Stanley, and one daughter, Molly (Mrs. Jeff Harris), and six grandchildren. One son, Angus, was accidentally killed by a tree during the 1923 flood. Sisters and brother of deceased are Emily (Mrs. Jack Warrall, of Comboyne), Annie (Mrs. Lance Bosanquet, Forbes River), Flora (Port Macquarie), and Kate (Mrs. Gordon Bosanquet, Port Macquarie), and Mr. Alister Kennedy (Taree). One sister, Lyn, predeceased her brother. On 12th July, the funeral took place to the Port Macquarie cemetery, where Rev. J. A. Harman (Free Presbyterian) officiated at the graveside.

Manning River Times 19<sup>th</sup> July 1947 p.4



Donald Kennedy at Gilgandra 1921



## McPHERSON, Neil (Trooper)

**Service Number:** 1924

**Date of Birth:** 10<sup>th</sup> April 1865

**Place of Birth:** Dingo Creek, near Wingham

**Unit:** "A" Squadron NSW Mounted Rifles

**Married:** Never married

**Date of Death:** 26<sup>th</sup> October 1939 aged 74

**Place of Death:** 43 Ormond Street, Ashfield NSW (while staying with his sister).

Buried Rookwood.

**Notes:** Son of James and Jane McPherson (*nee* Campbell). Obituary in the Manning River Times 4<sup>th</sup> November 1939 p.2

### Mr. Neil McPherson.

On Thursday, October 26th, 1939, in Sydney, a very fine native of the Upper Manning, in the person of Mr. Neil McPherson, passed away. Mr. McPherson had been staying with his sister (Mrs. Fozzard) at Ashfield for about 12 months.

The late Mr. McPherson was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James McPherson, and was born at Dingo Creek, near Wingham. He was never married. Deceased had lived most of his time at Dingo Creek, though for a few years he resided in Sydney and Maitland. During the Boer War, Mr. McPherson volunteered for service, and spent some time with the Australian troops in South Africa.

Two brothers now remain—Mr. John McPherson, J.P. (Marlee), and Mr. Donald McPherson (William Street, Wingham). Two sisters also survive their brother—Mrs. Dorward (Harrington), and Mrs. Fozzard (Sydney).

The late Mr. Neil McPherson was a genial, good-hearted man, and his passing, at the age of 74 years, will be regretted by a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the Manning district.

The funeral took place on Friday, 27th October, the remains of deceased being laid to rest in the Rookwood Cemetery.

Mr. Neil McPherson, formerly of Ashlea, is on a visit to his Manning friends. It is 17 years since he left this district, during which time he travelled extensively in Africa and New

The Wingham Chronicle and Manning River Observer 31<sup>st</sup> May 1916 p2



**NOAKES, David Peter 'Jack' (Shoeing smith)**

**Service Number:** 491

**Date of Birth:** 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1878

**Place of Birth:** Telegraph Point

**Unit:** 1<sup>st</sup> NSW Mounted Rifles

**Date of Embarkation:** 17<sup>th</sup> January 1900

**Embarked Ship:** Southern Cross

**Parents:** James and Sarah Noakes (*nee* Wilson)

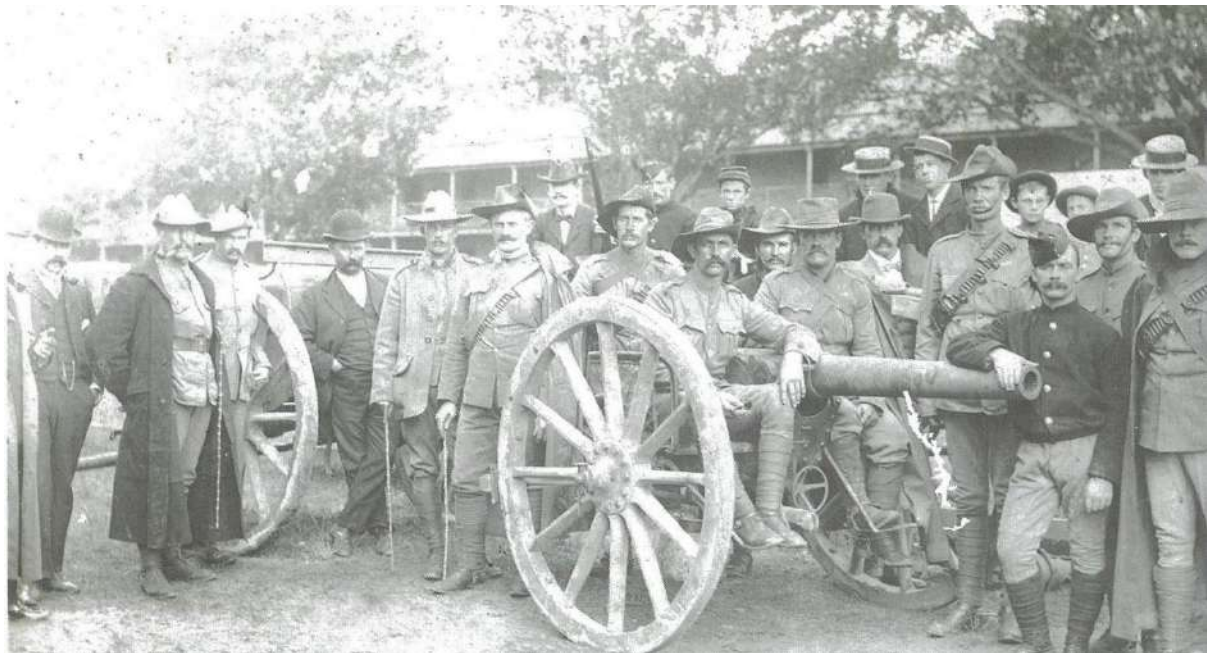
**Married:** Married Lydia E N Gander 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1905 at Redfern and had three children

**Date of Death:** September 1965

**Place of Death:** Balmain district

**Notes:** Apprentice Blacksmith with A H Bartrim at Beechwood prior to enlistment

(Below: J Noakes of Ellenborough, second from right. The photograph was taken by his sister Mrs E. Wallace of Wauchope.)



**NOAKES, Robert Hastings (Trooper)**

**Service Number:** 1888

**Date of Birth:** 29<sup>th</sup> May 1881

**Place of Birth:** Clifton Hill, Port Macquarie

**Unit:** 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse

**Date of Embarkation:** 18<sup>th</sup> February 1902

**Embarked Ship:** Custodian

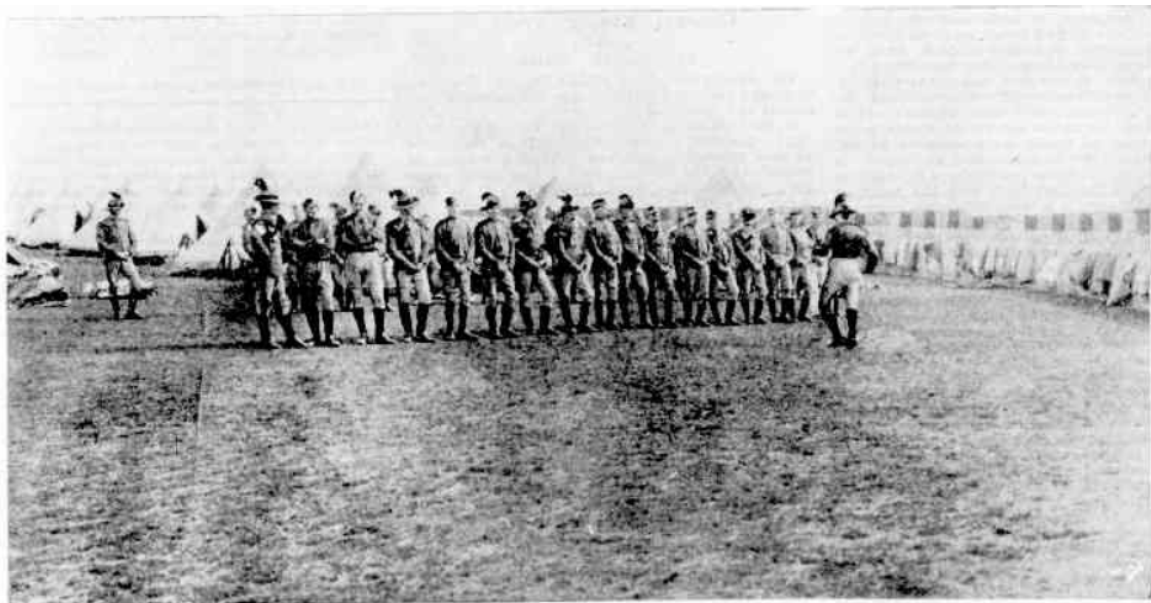
**Parents:** James and Sarah Noakes (nee Wilson)

**Married:** Eva Mary Cumming (1881-1969) in 1910  
at St Stephens Newtown. They had two children.

**Date of Death:** 19<sup>th</sup> June 1962

**Place of Death:** Concord Military Hospital

**Notes:** Enlisted with the Royal Australian Artillery at 19 before serving in the Boer War. He returned to Sydney working at Middle Head on garrison duty before retiring from the service due to ill health. He had a severe haemorrhage as a result of the firing of the guns. In 1939 he enlisted in the Army Citizens Military Forces. He later lived at Ellenborough and Port Macquarie. Obituary PMN 19<sup>th</sup> June 1962 page 4.



N.S.W. MOUNTED RIFLES—ROLL CALL

## NOAKES, William Arthur (Trooper)

**Service Number:** 2110

**Date of Birth:** 5<sup>th</sup> September 1879

**Place of Birth:** 'Belvedere' Hastings River

**Unit:** 3<sup>rd</sup> NSW Mounted Rifles

**Date of Embarkation:** 21<sup>st</sup> March 1901

**Embarked Ship:** British Princess

**Arrival:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1902

**Parents:** James and Sarah Noakes (*nee* Wilson)

**Married:** Mary Ann Toms (1887-1917) on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1906 at Beechwood and had three children

**Date of Death:** 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1959

**Place of Death:** Lismore

**Notes:** Served under Lt Cadden and Lt Doudney. An article on the Noakes family that appeared in the Port Macquarie Express of 19<sup>th</sup> December 1990 suggested that he was wounded and went missing before turning up at No. 22 general Hospital in Pretoria for repatriation home.

PMN 7<sup>TH</sup> December 1901 p2 p

**Letter from South Africa.**

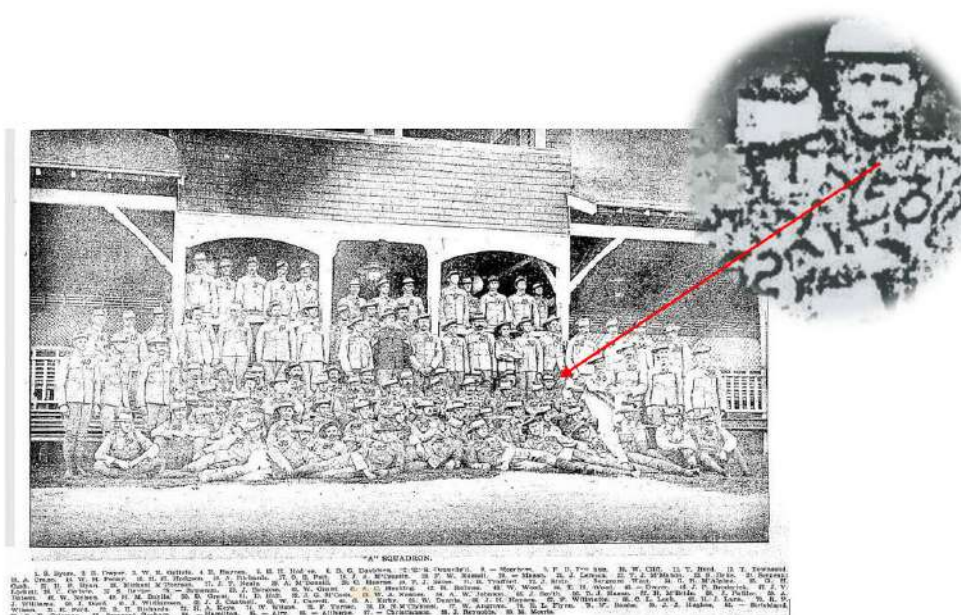
We have received the following letter for publication:—

Heilbron Hospital,  
South Africa.  
Sept. 17., 1901.

Dear Mother—I am sending you a few lines to let you know how I am. I am in the hospital with measles this time. I am up to day for the first time; for seven days I was pretty bad out with the column in the Ambulance, but as soon as I got into the Hospital, I began to get better. I will have to do another fortnight in here, and then back to work again. I was lucky to get in here when I did, for they have had some very bad weather since I left.

I thought we would have got home this month (Sept.), but I find we will have to stay our 12 months out here, but I don't mind while it keeps fine, but I am afraid of the wet weather, which will soon be in now. Our column has been kept going ever since the 5th of May; we have hardly had a day's spell except when we come in for provisions and then it is load up and away again. Our old leader, General Remington, is a great man for night-marching, and often we are kept going night and day with only a few hours' rest in the middle of the day, but we have done some good work since we came out. Neil M'Pherson is with us yet and quiet well. Remember me to all my friends, and tell them I will be glad to get back in Australia again. We don't know what war is like till we get here and have to put up with all sorts of hardships.

W. A. NOAKES.



**RUTHVEN Charles Kenneth Gowrie (Lance Sergeant)**

**Service Number:** 603

**Date of Birth:** 7<sup>th</sup> July 1876

**Place of Birth:** 'Winbourn', Mulgoa (NSW)

**Unit:** Imperial Bushmen

**Date of Embarkation:** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1900

**Embarked Ship:** Armenian

**Departure Ship:** Orient

**Arrival:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 1901 in Sydney

**Parents:** Edward Southward Gowrie Ruthven and Isabel Eliza Wilshire.

**Married:** Mary Clementine Manton (1877-1949) at Newtown in 1907

**Date of Death:** 27<sup>th</sup> December 1914

**Place of Death:** Buried at Waverley Cemetery, Sydney.





**RUTHVEN, Edward Southwell Gowrie (Lance Corporal)**

**Service Number:** 602

**Date of Birth:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 1880

**Place of Birth:** Port Macquarie

**Unit:** Imperial Bushmen

**Date of Embarkation:** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1900

**Embarked Ship:** Armenian

**Departure Ship:** Orient

**Arrival:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 1901

**Parents:** Edward Southward Gowrie Ruthven and Isabel Eliza Wilshire.

**Married:** Ruby Kathleen Hilda Collings 7<sup>th</sup> September 1907 in Glebe

**Date of Death:** 28<sup>th</sup> August 1946

**Place of Death:** Petersham. Buried Waverley.



**Departure of the NSW Imperial Bushmen, Sydney, February 1900**

**RUTHVEN John Lowry (Jnr) (Trooper)**

**Service Number:** 641

**Date of Birth:** 15<sup>th</sup> June 1881

**Place of Birth:** 'Gowrie' Hastings River Port Macquarie

**Unit:** 2<sup>nd</sup> NSW Mounted Rifles

**Date of Embarkation:** 17<sup>th</sup> March 1901

**Embarked Ship:** Custodian

**Parents:** John Lowry Ruthven and Zilla Elizabeth Foxlowe Hosking

**Married:** Ruby Cobcroft Paterson (1883-1952) at St Phillips Church, Church Hill, Sydney 18<sup>th</sup> April 1908

**Date of Death:** 18<sup>th</sup> December 1956

**Place of Death:** Double Bay. Cremated Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, North Ryde.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A04337

Troops of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NSW Mounted Rifles crossing the Orange River

## **RUTHVEN John Lowry (Snr)**

**Date of Birth:** c1851

**Place of Birth:** Paddington NSW

**Married:** Zilla Elizabeth Foxlowe Hosking on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1871 and had 13 children

**Date of Death:** 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1936

**Place of Death:** Mosman, Sydney. Buried Waverley.

**Notes:** Also known locally as the 'Earl of Gowrie.' Commissioned by the Imperial Government to take a shipload of horses to South Africa. He contributed to the Hastings area in a variety of ways including establishing a sugar plantation and Mill in the 1870s on his Gowrie property where he built his home and also a bacon curing station at Gowrie, Ennis which he ran until it closed in 1893. He also built the houses 'Arncliffe', off Hill Street, Port Macquarie and 'Ruthven Hill'.

## **SPENCE, Michael Mervyn Macquarie 'Mick' (Trooper)**

**Service Number:** 1503

**Date of Birth:** 14<sup>th</sup> October 1880

**Place of Birth:** Port Macquarie

**Unit:** Kitchener's Horse

**Unit:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse

**Date of Embarkation:** 1<sup>st</sup> April

**Embarked Ship:** Manhattan

**Arrival:** 11<sup>th</sup> August 1902

**Parents:** William Andrew and Elizabeth Spence (*nee* Mahoney)

**Date of Death:** 1942

**Place of Death:** Wyong

**Notes:** Rejected by the army in Australia. Instead travelled overseas on a freighter taking horses to the war and joined the British Army. Wounded he was evacuated home. After he recovered he joined the Australian forces. He later served as a Private in WW1, service no. 2400 (*see* 'They Crossed the Ocean', Port Macquarie Hastings Library). His Grandfather Michael Spence arrived in Port Macquarie about 1833 and worked as a storekeeper and postmaster in the town.





# Commonwealth Contingent for Service in South Africa.

ATTESTATION of No. **1503** Name Mervyn Spence  
 Joined at SYDNEY, N. S. W.  
 On FEB. 5 1902

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
1. What is your name?	1. <u>Mervyn Spence.</u>
2. What is your place of birth?	2. <u>Port M. Quarrui</u>
3. Are you a British subject?	3. <u>ES</u>
4. What is your age?	4. <u>21</u> years <u>3</u> months.
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <u>clerk</u>
6. Are you married?	6. <u>No</u>
7. Who is your next-of-kin, and what is the address of same, and degree of relationship?	7. <u>Father Mr. A. Port M. Quarrui</u>
8. Particulars of any previous service in present South African war, and state in what Contingent enrolled, and if discharged.	8. <u>to Morts Kitchens Horse.</u>
9. Are you willing to serve for a period of 12 months, or for the duration of war, in the Contingent for service in South Africa with His Majesty's forces?	9. <u>YES</u>
10. Are you willing to be vaccinated, or re-vaccinated, if deemed advisable?	10. <u>YES</u>
11. Present permanent address?	11. <u>Port M. Quarrui</u>
12. Religion?	12. <u>Coft</u>

I, Mervyn Spence do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made for service under the Imperial Government, and that I have no claim on the Commonwealth Government, and that I do not expect to receive for myself, or any of my relations, any compensation whatsoever from the Commonwealth Government in case of my disablement or death.

Mervyn Spence Signature Frank Mollay  
 Signature of Witness.

## MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

I have examined the above-named applicant and can ~~cannot~~ certify that he is medically fit for service in South Africa.

Height 5 feet 8 inches. Eyes blue  
 Chest measurement 34 1/2 inches. Hair Brown  
 Complexion Fair Distinctive marks None inside left hip  
Reuter & Roth. Signature of Medical Officer.

\* One to be struck out and initialled by Medical Officer.

## OATH TO BE TAKEN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Mervyn Spence do make oath that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty, His heirs and successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty his heirs and successors in person, Crown, and dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me.

So help me, God.

Mervyn Spence Signature Frank Mollay  
 Signature of Witness.

Sworn before me h. K. Swan Justice of the Peace.



**STEWART, James Arthur Wallace (Trooper)**

**Service Number:** 541

**Date of Birth:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 1873

**Place of Birth:** 'Killivinning', Maria River, Port Macquarie District

**Unit:** 2<sup>nd</sup> NSW Mounted Rifles

**Date of Embarkation:** 17<sup>th</sup> March 1901

**Embarked Ship:** Custodian

**Arrival:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 1902

**Parents:** Clement and Margaret Stewart (*nee* Wallace) of 'Cornbury Park' Rollands Plains

**Married:** Emily Anne Mackay (1875-1959) at Sydney in 1909

**Date of Death:** 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1962

**Place of Death:** Kyogle Memorial Hospital

**Notes:** He took part in the relief of Mafeking under Lord Baden-Powell. Had a dairy farm at Cawongla in the Kyogle district, and for many years led the ANZAC Day march at Kyogle. At one time had a property at Ballengarra. Following his return from South Africa he worked in Sydney. (See death notice PMN 6<sup>th</sup> November 1967 p.7)



**TRIM, William Patrick (Private)**

**Service Number:** 631

**Date of Birth:** 12<sup>th</sup> August 1880

**Place of Birth:** Armidale

**Enlisted:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 1900

**Unit:** Imperial Bushmen

**Date of Embarkation:** 23rd April 1900

**Embarked Ship:** Armenian

**Departure Ship:** Orient

**Arrival:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 1901 in Sydney

**Parents:** William John and Bridget Ann Trim (*nee* Fitzgerald)

**Married:** Catherine Anne Nelson (1881-1926) in 1906 in Sydney

**Date of Death:** 5<sup>th</sup> April 1919

**Place of Death:** South Balmain

**Notes:** William completed his tour of duty and then returned home and opened a saddlers shop in Wauchope. He worked for 15 years prior to his death on the railways in Sydney. His parents operated the Tattersalls Hotel and later the Royal Hotel in Port Macquarie (1901).

**Obituary.**

**MR. WILLIAM P. TRIM.**

On Saturday Mr. W. J. Trim, of Taree, received a telegram announcing the death in Sydney of his eldest son, Mr. William Patrick Trim. The cause of death was stated to be pneumonia. Deceased was only 35 years of age.

The late Mr. Trim was well known on the Manning, having frequently visited his father here on holiday. The fishing grounds of Harrington were his favorite resorts. He was an exceptionally fine type of man, big, robust, and apparently the embodiment of perfect health. He had a 45-inch chest measurement, and had never known sickness. Having lived a good, clean life, he supplied a fine example of "sound mind and sound body." Those locally who knew him will join with his relatives and friends in deeply regretting the early death of a worthy young man.

The deceased had been for many years employed in the Sydney tramway service, and was a driver at the time of his demise. He leaves a widow (who is a daughter of Police Superintendent Nelson, of Melbourne) and one son.

About 1000 persons attended the funeral. The corpse was carried from the hearse to the grave by members of the tramway service; and the tramway band played funeral music.

Mr. Trim, son., left Taree for Sydney on Saturday night, and returned after a brief stay with the family.

Northern Champion 9 April 1919 p3

TRIM.—On the 5th April, at his residence, No. 112 Evans-street, Rozelle, Sydney, William Patrick, the dearly beloved husband of Catherine Trim, loving father of Ronnie, loved son-in-law of John and Julia Nelson, Richmond, Victoria, aged 38.  
May his soul rest in peace.

The Age 8th April 1919 p.1

## WALSH, Christopher W. (Lance Corporal)

**Service Number:** 2466

**Date of Birth:** 26 November 1879

**Place of Birth:** Beechwood

**Enlisted:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Imperial Bushmen

**Arrival:** 8 November 1901

**Parents:** Francis and Catherine Walsh (*nee* Barrie)

**Married:** Lucy Trueman in Sydney in 1912 and had seven children

**Date of Death:** 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1962

**Place of Death:** Port Macquarie

**Notes:** His unit was formed at Transvaal on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1901. Christopher was invalided home in November 1901. Prior to the war he was a baker with his brother John in Kempsey. Later he was a ferry master at Blackman's point. Obituary (PMN 12 July 1962 p.9)



## OBITUARY

MR. C. W. WALSH

Mr. Christopher W. Walsh, of Port Macquarie, a Boer War veteran who died on July 2, at the age of 83 years, was born at Beechwood, on the Hastings River.

His death followed a long illness; he was a retired ferrymaster and had many faithful years service at Blackman's Point.

He made a big effort in November last and attended the "Old Diggers" reunion held here at Armistice time, and was the only Boer War veteran present.

Deceased was married in Sydney in 1912. Obituary (PMN 12th July 1962 p.9)

Mr Walsh was accompanied along with the members of their family, viz., Marjorie (Mrs. Kyle, Stanmore), Beryl (Mrs. Merv. Radley, Port Macquarie), Claire (Mrs. Shoemack, Pendle Hills), Colleen (Mrs. Dallas, Taree), Barry and Mona (Port Macquarie), Shannon (Port Moresby).

A guard of honour was formed by members of the R.S.L. and G.U.O.O.F. Lodge when the funeral cortege moved from the Church of St. Agnes.

The interment was made in the Roman Catholic portion of Port Macquarie cemetery, with Messrs. M. Radley, J. Walsh, N. Dallas, and B. Walsh acting as pallbearers.

## **WALSH, James (Trooper) Cape Special Police**

**Service Number:** 66

**Date of Birth:** October 1869

**Place of Birth:** Port Macquarie

**Unit:** 3<sup>rd</sup> NSW Imperial Bushmen

**Parents:** Francis and Catherine Walsh (*nee* Barrie)

**Married:** Married in South Africa

**Date of Death:** 1953

**Place of Death:** South Africa

**Notes:** Before the war he was a carpenter and travelled to South Africa prior to 1900

## **WALSH, John (Corporal)**

**Service Number:**

**Date of Birth:** 9<sup>th</sup> May 1874

**Place of Birth:** East Kempsey

**Enlisted:** Joined in South Africa

**Unit:** 2<sup>nd</sup> NSW Mounted Rifles

**Date of Embarkation:** possibly 21 March 1901

**Arrival:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 1902

**Parents:** Francis and Catherine Walsh (*nee* Barrie)

**Married:** Theresa Adelaide O'Doherty (1881-1958)  
on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1905.

**Date of Death:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 1957

**Place of Death:** Ashfield

**Notes:** Prior to the war he was a baker at Wauchope and steam/marine engineer. On his return to the Hastings he worked on the tug 'Undaunted' as an engineer, on Blackman's point ferry and later on his own launches 'Shamrock' and 'Ostra' providing a delivery service of cream supplies between farmers and the Port Macquarie Butter Factory.



## **WILLIAMS, T - not found**

**Notes:** Only mention is in a letter in the Port Macquarie News, written from South Africa, mentioning that he may be going to hospital. The letter is from T. Williams, Camden Haven. The letter mentions Saul, who is possibly Saul Williams.





**Troop ships heading to South Africa. On the right is the transport ship 'Custodian'**

## Appendix One

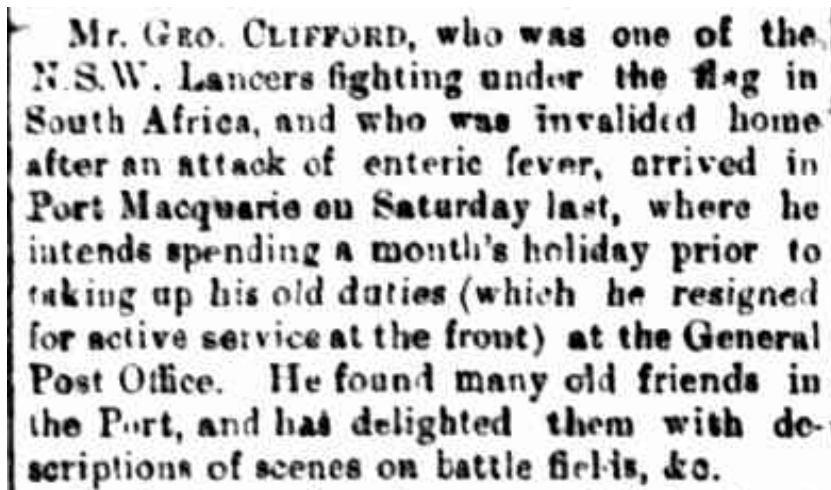
**Other local men who served in the South African Wars but who are not listed on the memorial.**

**BUNTINE, Robert (Doctor)**

**Notes:** The brother of Reverend H.S. Buntine, a Presbyterian Minister who was serving in Port Macquarie at the time.

**CLIFFORD, George (Private/Lance Corporal)**

**Notes:** - not found



Mr. GEO. CLIFFORD, who was one of the N.S.W. Lancers fighting under the flag in South Africa, and who was invalided home after an attack of enteric fever, arrived in Port Macquarie on Saturday last, where he intends spending a month's holiday prior to taking up his old duties (which he resigned for active service at the front) at the General Post Office. He found many old friends in the Port, and has delighted them with descriptions of scenes on battle fields, &c.

PMN 3<sup>RD</sup> November 1900 p2

**CONDON, James**

**Notes:** migrated for business to South Africa before war commenced and was caught up in the conflict.

## **COOK, William Frederick (Private)**

**Service Number:** 512

**Date of Birth:** 21<sup>st</sup> June 1878

**Place of Birth:** Sydney

**Enlisted:** Light Horse

**Date of Embarkation:** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1900

**Embarked Ship:** Armenian

**Departure Ship:** Orient

**Arrival:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 1901 to Sydney

**Parents:** Joseph Blain and Mary Selina Hawthorne Cook (*nee* White)

**Married:** Ada Knowles

**Date of Death:** 26<sup>th</sup> May 1960

**Place of Death:** Port Macquarie

**Notes:** Met his future wife in South Africa where she was working as a nurse

---

## **DEATH OF BOER WAR VETERAN**

A notable identity, veteran of the Boer War, Mr. William Frederick Cook, died peacefully in the Hastings District Hospital at Port Macquarie on Thursday last.

Deceased was a native of Sydney and would have celebrated his 84th birthday this month.

He first knew Port Macquarie as a child, when he frequently visited his grandmother, Mrs. Chapman, at her homestead at Sapling Creek.

There the coaches used to halt for refreshments and the late Mr. Cook often recounted to his family more thrilling times when notorious bushrangers would call in and be given a meal.

This adventurous spirit displayed so early in his life led him to the Boer War, as a member of the Light Horse.

In service in Africa he lost the sight of one eye, and

hospital treatment in London followed.

There he met and married Nurse Ada Knowles, who survives him together with their four children.

They are Mr. Arthur Cook (Q'land), Norman (Sydney), Mrs. Norman Gale (Brisbane), and Mrs. W. Banfield (Sydney).

There are three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are three brothers of deceased, Messrs. F. W., Nornt., and Harold, and two sisters, Mrs. Geo. Suttie, and Mrs. Alice Holloway, all of Sydney.

The late Mr. Cook was a builder by trade, and spent 35 years of his life here. His

eye injury prevented him from active service in World War 1, but he spent the whole of that period in uniform at Liverpool Camp.

Members of the R.S.L. paid their last respects at his funeral on Saturday, when the interment was made in the Church of England portion of Port Macquarie Cemetery after a service in the Church of St. Thomas.

---

## KENT, Ernest

**Date of Birth:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 1876

**Place of Birth:** Birmingham, England

**Parents:** John Henry and Ann Alithea Kent (*nee* Totty)

**Married:** Ruby Alice Groom in Eden, N.S.W. 30<sup>th</sup> May 1903 and had 13 children

**Date of Death:** 15<sup>th</sup> July 1962

**Place of Death:** Port Macquarie

**Notes:** Joined the British army to fight in South Africa. Came to Australia in 1902 and was soon followed by his future wife Ruby Alice Groom. Later lived at Comboyne, Wauchope, and eventually Port Macquarie. He worked at the Old Butter Factory at Comboyne and introduced ice cream to the area.

Obituary PMN 19<sup>th</sup> July 1962 p4



Photo Above: Ernest Kent Sr with Muscha and Rover, 1904

## OBITUARY

### Mr. Ernest Kent

A Boer War veteran who served under both Lord Baden-Powell and Sir A. Conan Doyle, passed to rest in the W.D.M. Hospital on Saturday last.

He was Mr. Ernest Kent who, incidentally, introduced ice-cream to the Comboyne.

The late Mr. Kent, who was 87 years of age, was born in England and joined the British Army to serve in the South African War of 1899-1902.

Sixty-two years ago he came to Australia, settling at Eden, on the NSW South Coast, where he married Ruby Alice Groom. Moving northwards, Mr. Kent worked in the old butter factory at Comboyne, and it was there that he made the first ice-cream the plateau inhabitants had ever known.

Mr. Kent then joined the late A. B. Fossey and travelled extensively throughout the State, remaining with Fosseys for thirty years and eventually being a branch manager in the city area.

Of late he had been residing with his son, Bill, in Wauchope. Mrs. Kent is now living in Port Macquarie, and surviving members of the family are Les (Wauchope), Edna (Mrs. A. S. Moyle, E.S.A. Bank, Jambooree, South Coast), Ruby (Mrs. Harris, Griffith), Ernest ("Bill," Wauchope), Charles (Huntingdon), Cecil (Tweed Heads) Nita (Mrs. Henderson, Guildford), Valton (Hibbard), Keith and Victor (Port Macquarie), and Shirley (Mrs. J. McCudden, Grafton). Two sons, Roy and James predeceased their father.

There are also 18 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

On Monday the funeral, under the direction of Mr. Les Piggott, moved from St. Matthew's, Wauchope, for the Port Macquarie Cemetery, the Rev. Steep performing the last sad rites.

Hastings Shire Gazette

19th July 1962 p.4



**McCROSSIN, John Alexander (Trooper)**

**Service Number:** 1994

**Date of Birth:** 1883

**Place of Birth:** Uralla

**Unit:** 3<sup>rd</sup> NSW Mounted Rifles

**Date of Embarkation:** March 15<sup>th</sup> 1901

**Embarked Ship:** Maplemore

**Married:** Ellen May Apted (1881-1973)

**Date of Death:** 14<sup>th</sup> November 1939 (SMH)

**Place of Death:** Bondi

**Notes:** Son of William Samuel and Marion Argyle McCrossin (*nee* Mulholland)

**Notes:** Also spelt McCrossan in some sources. He was a relieving Post Master at Wauchope when he enlisted as a telegraph Operator serving under R. N. Cadden

**McLENNAN, T**

**Notes:** Listed in Manning Newspapers as being from Bulga/Ellenborough.

**MARTIN, Sydney Edgar (Corporal)**

**Notes:** Served in the Boer War with the 1<sup>st</sup> New South Wales Mounted Rifles and was invalided home on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1901. While not a local, he is mentioned in some local publications as his brother Francis George Martin married Laura Annie Blair of Port Macquarie in 1893.

**McWILLIAMS, T**

**Notes:** He was mentioned in PMN as being from Rollands Plains.

The genial "Sergeant" T. McWilliam  
has returned from South Africa. He re-  
lates many interesting anecdotes of the  
late war

PMN May 6 1905 p.5

## O'DONNELL, Eugene Dudley

**Date of Birth:** 1881

**Place of Birth:** Vegetable Creek, N.S.W.

**Enlisted:** Joined in South Africa

**Unit:** Kitchener's Light Horse

**Embarked Ship:** Australian

**Parents:** Daniel Maurice and Jane O'Connell (*nee* Rankin)

**Married:** Margaret Meaney Chapman (1878-1966)

**Date of Death:** 1956

**Place of Death:** Chatswood

**Notes:** Not accepted by the Australian authorities, he travelled overseas and enlisted with the British Army. His sister Elizabeth married Alexander Blair Butler of Port Macquarie. His travels over to the war and his return were published in letters to Port Macquarie News.

## WILLIAMS, Saul

**Notes:** Believed to be brother of T. Williams who mentioned him in a letter home from Myerton South Africa saying he may go to hospital

## WOODLANDS, Arthur Douglas

**Date of Birth:** 28<sup>th</sup> October 1877

**Place of Birth:** (near) Wauchope:

**Embarked Ship:** s.s. Moravian

**Date of Embarkation:** 14<sup>th</sup> April

**Parents:** Richard and Elizabeth Woodlands (*nee* Boltwood)

**Married:** Clara Amies (1879-1948)  
10<sup>th</sup> July 1909 at Ashfield. Divorced  
November 1932.

**Date of Death:** 5<sup>th</sup> October 1947

**Place of Death:** Liverpool. Buried at  
Rookwood 8<sup>th</sup> October 1947.

**Notes:** Enlisted in World War One Service No. 2489. Noted on his enlistment papers that he was in the Royal Engineers in the South African War. No record has been found to date of his service in South Africa.

OFF TO JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. Jas. Bourne who has been on a visit to his parents here for a few months, from Johannesburg, left by the Rosedale on Tuesday morning last intending to return to Africa. He is to be followed in a few days by his brother Hastings, and also Mr. A. D. Woodlands, who are going to try their luck there. All three are to leave by the s.s. Moravian (White Star Line), which vessel leaves Sydney on April 14. Mr. C. Condon left a few weeks ago, and we understand it is his intention to return to Africa, too. We wish these young men *bon voyage*, and good luck in "in the land of the Boer."

PMN 8th April 1899 p.2

## Appendix Two

Southern Africa showing boundaries, main rivers, railways and major towns 1899-1902



## Appendix Three

### New South Wales Contingents to the South African Wars 1899-1902

New South Wales Departures and Arrivals		
CONTINGENT	DEPARTED	RETURNED
New South Wales Lancers - 1st Draft	October 10, 1899	December 6, 1900 January 8, 1901
New South Wales Lancers - 2nd Draft	October 28, 1899	" " "
New South Wales Lancers - 3rd Draft	January 17, 1900	" " "
New South Wales Lancers - 4th Draft	February 16, 1900	" " "
1st New South Wales Army Medical Corps	October 28, 1899	December 8, 1900 January 8, 1901
2nd New South Wales Army Medical Corps	January 17, 1900	" " "
3rd Imperial Draft Army Medical Corps (NSW)	March 17, 1901	June 3, 1902
4th Commonwealth Army Medical Corps (NSW)	February 11, 1902	July 1902
New South Wales Mounted Rifles	November 3, 1899	January 8, 1901
New South Wales Infantry	November 3, 1899	January 8, 1901
1st Australian Horse (NSW)	November 14, 1899	May 2, 1901
2nd Australian Horse (NSW)	January 17, 1900	May 2, 1901
Royal Australian Artillery (NSW)	December 30, 1899	September 15, 1901
Royal Australian Artillery (NSW) - Draft	March 15, 1901	September 15, 1901
1st New South Wales Mounted Rifles	January 17, 1900	April 29, 1901
New South Wales Citizens' Bushmen	February 28, 1900	June 11, 1901
1st New South Wales Imperial Bushmen	April 23, 1900	June 17, 1901
2nd New South Wales Mounted Rifles	March 15, 1901	June 4, 1902
3rd New South Wales Mounted Rifles	March 15 & 21, 1901	June 3, 1902
3rd New South Wales Mounted Rifles - Draft	April 5, 1901	June 3, 1902
3rd New South Wales Imperial Bushmen	.....	August 11, 1902
1st Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse	February 18, 1902	August 11, 1902
3rd Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse	April 1, 1902	August 11, 1902
5th Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse	May 22, 1902	August 1, 1902



## Appendix Four

### Medals Issued

Australians served in the Boer War, initially as members of the State Colonial forces and after Federation with Commonwealth units. Others who were unable to join Colonial or Commonwealth units enlisted in forces raised by other nations including Britain and South Africa.

Two campaign medals were issued for the Boer War during this period – the Queen's South Africa Medal and, after the death of Queen Victoria, the King's South Africa Medal. Eligible Australians were awarded one or two medals according to their period of service.

### Queen's South Africa medal

#### Description

The Queen's South Africa Medal was awarded for service in the Boer War in South Africa. The Australian colonies raised units and a number of Australians who were not able to join Australian units enlisted in British and South African units.

#### Design

The medal is a silver and bronze medal with the crowned and veiled head of Queen Victoria on the obverse.

The reverse has Britannia with a flag in her left hand holding out a laurel wreath to a party of advancing soldiers. In the background are two warships. Below the wreath the dates '1899-1900' are shown. Around the top are the words 'SOUTH AFRICA'.

#### Ribbon

The ribbon has a broad orange central stripe flanked by two dark blue stripes and red edges.



# King's South Africa medal

## Description

Following Queen Victoria's death during the South African War, King Edward VII authorised a medal to be awarded to all who were serving in South Africa on or after 1 January 1902, and who would complete 18 months' service before 1 June 1902. The medal was never issued alone, but always with the Queen's Medal.

## Design

The medal is silver with the bust of King Edward VII on the obverse. The reverse is the same as the Queen's South Africa Medal.

## Ribbon

The ribbon has stripes of green, white and orange.



---

**Second Regiment N.S.W. Mounted Rifles—Presentation of Medals on Sunday Last.**

---



**Source:** Australian Town & Country Journal 11<sup>th</sup> November 1903 p.35

