



Respect, Gratitude, Admiration

TRIBUTE

The Newsletter of the Military
Historical Society Australia,
Queensland Division

President: Russell Paten
Website: www.mhsa.org.au

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Battle of Long Tan Helicopter (A2-022) Restoration:

Restoration work on our Helicopter continues at the Queensland Air Museum. The images below show the application of the first layer of

paint on the fuselage. The team at the QAM have done a great job so far and it won't be long before "Huey" returns to its rightful place in our Memorial Gardens. Appreciation is extended to the QAM for the service they have provided, and to Tenkate Group Pty Ltd for providing the cranes and transport to relocate the airframe. Next update should have the helicopter back on its pedestal within the gardens, which will definitively be before Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Service. **Article taken from the newsletter of the Caloundra RSL Sub Branch**

President Report

Well, it's the start of a new year for MHSA (Qld) with the AGM being held in Maryborough on 20 July. I feel privileged and proud to have been voted in as President for another year. The last year was one of learning and I expect this one will be no different. It feels very satisfying to have the passionate and competent executive team that I have beside me. With Glenn Lyons as Vice-President, Kelly Lyons as Treasurer, Jim Nuttall as Secretary, Wuzzy Alford, David Geck and Scott Meares as committee members and Alan Quinney in charge of Tribute, I feel pretty good about pushing forward in the areas we see as important for us all this year.

2024 has been a busy year for Anne and I and has included a visit to the Flanders battlefields as part of a larger holiday. We were able to explore the very bits of ground on which our Great-Uncles fought and died during World War One. It was a pilgrimage that we had wanted to take for many years, and we found it very moving, much more so than we had expected.

The new year means that membership fees are again due. The most efficient way for all to pay these is via direct deposit into our account but, if you would prefer to pay in cash or cheque, that's fine. If you need assistance with paying these, please just let me know. Kelly Lyons will be contacting everyone in more detail shortly.

Thanks again for your participation and friendship during the last year. I feel that we are a group who firmly have a vision aimed at honouring the achievements of our service people and are happy to work on achieving this. I

am always happy to take advice and always welcome your thoughts on how we can further these aims.

Onwards and upwards.

From the Editor

It is timely that we have an edition in August as the month is the anniversary of the end of World War II and one in which our Vietnam veterans are remembered.

This edition has a couple of features with a Vietnam War theme.

Perplexing news last month that war graves at Gaza were badly damaged or even destroyed because of the current war. Hopefully all authorities can arrange repairs and restoration at a suitable time. About 250 Australian soldiers lie there.

President Russ has recovered from his jetlag and taken the time to put together a comprehensive article about a visit to the Western Front by him and wife Anne who both had relatives killed there. An enduring link between the two families that has forged and deserves worthy mention.

Thanks to all who have contributed articles or ideas to this edition.

We had so much material this time I had to pull some out to be held over for next time.

Enjoy.

Fromelles battle remembered at anniversary service

From Russell Linwood and Garry Saunderson, communications officer for 49th Bn Assoc.



On 19 July 2014, the 31 Bn Association hosted a 108th Anniversary Commemorative Service of the Battle of Fromelles, 19-20 July 1916, at Ipswich Soldiers Memorial Hall.

This battle included the 5th Australian Division which suffered over 5,500 killed, wounded or missing in action, by far the worst loss of an Australian formation ever in a single action. This division included the 8th Brigade of which two battalions were made up predominantly of Queenslanders. An extract of the Orders to go into battle are easily read at <https://www.naa.gov.au/students-and-teachers/student-research-portal/learning-resource-themes/war/world-war-i/order-attack-8th-australian-infantry-brigade>

With the benefit of hindsight, and knowing that the Germans had been there for about a year and very well dug in with fixed line machine guns firing down dense wire from heavily fortified bunkers including the Sugarloaf strongpoint, it is unsurprising that such casualties accrued. And this was in the first major battle to involve Australians in France.

As recently as this year, some of the missing in action have been identified from the Pheasant Wood mass grave internments, including another 31 Bn soldier who was respected at this ceremony.

The service at Ipswich featured:

Honoured Guest Keith Payne VC AM, a former member of 31 RQR.

The honorary French consul Mr Alain Etchegaray.

Welcome address by the current Commander 8 Brigade, Brigadier Arran Hassell CSC.

Keynote address on the 31st Bn's part in the battle by Capricorn Company Commander 31st/42nd Battalion, Major Edward Dalhelimer.

The gathering, believed to be for the first time, was attended by descendants of the Fromelles veterans.

The descendants included MHA Secretary Lieutenant Colonel Russell Linwood ASM (Retd). 417 Private Isaac Linwood, 22 years old at the time, served in B Company 31 Bn and was wounded in action during this battle, serving later in Belgium as well. He survived the war.

Isaac's younger brother 1676 Private Percy Linwood, 18 years of age, was killed in action on night 14/15 August 1916 during an attack on Mouquet Farm near Pozieres while serving with 52 Bn, 13 Bde, 4th Division.

Russell has a special connection with Keith Payne – both came from Ingham, both are members of the 31Bn Association, and in 1970 WO2 Payne was Russell's infantry squad instructor during basic training at Duntroon. They have maintained a friendship ever since.

Also attending were 49th Bn boys, Graham Palmer CSM, Paul Woodward, Ray Knight, John Purdon, David Ostrofski and David Saunderson. The service started at 11am and finished about 1230pm. Paul and Ray laid wreaths on behalf of the 49th Bn Association.



31 Bn Association members including secretary LT Tony Wadeson, bending down with Keith Payne VC, seated front right.

Pilgrimage to the front line reinforces families' link

By Russell Paten

June 15, 2024 was the emotional but satisfying culmination of a project, a passion that started when I was a young man in uniform.

In 1983, while serving in the 49th Battalion, I purchased a copy of *Always Faithful*, a history of the 49th Battalion. While perusing the World War 1 Honour Roll, I noticed that a young soldier by the name of E H Paten was included on it - my surname and my father's initials.

When I mentioned it to my father, he casually replied, "Yes, that was Uncle Edward. I'm named after him." This was a revelation, not just discovering that I had an ancestor who lost his life in the Great War, but that we both served in the same battalion.

The story became more interesting when I told my wife's mother. She turned to Anne, and said, "You also had a Great Uncle killed in the Great War. His name was Cecil Machin. The family property at Ilfracombe is named after him, Cecil Park."

This prompted me to retrieve the Army records of Cecil Machin. Much to my surprise, I found that he was also serving in the 49th Battalion when he was killed.

Both Great Uncles served in the same battalion as I did.

I knew I had to find their full story and record it – and I also knew I had to go to Flanders and find them. That was the start. Below is the story of how it happened.

This article will concentrate on the search for Edward Paten. A future article will detail our efforts to find Cecil Machin.

No remains of either man were ever retrieved. Their names are recorded on the Menin Gate in Ypres, along with 60,000 other names of men who were killed but whose bodies were never identified. Cecil was killed on 7 June 1917 during the battle of Messines, seemingly by British artillery fire. Edward died five weeks later when, on a quiet day at the front, a stray shell dropped into the Lewis Gun pit in which he was standing. As both men were killed by artillery fire, it was understandable that their remains were never retrieved. I was unable to find further evidence regarding the specifics of Cecil's death, but Red Cross records uncovered some interesting information regarding Edward's death. Several relevant notes from members of Edward's platoon proved something critical.

His body was not destroyed by the artillery shell.

The notes are reproduced below.

49th Battn.
B. Coy.
A. I. F.

Paten.
E. H. 5101

"Killed 15.7.17"

I saw him wounded at Ploegsteert Wood. He was hit in the back by shell fragments and only lived a few moments afterwards. I was wounded by the same shell and do not know place of burial and cannot refer to anyone for further particulars. I knew him well there was no other of that name in the Company.

Witness:-

Cpl. E. Martin 231
49th Battn. B. Coy.
3rd Aust. Aux. Hospital.
Dartford.

W. Oman.

London.
19.9.17.

P.I.

Havre

28th Sept. 1917.

49th AUSTRALIANS

PATEN. E.H. 5101 (L.G.S.)
B Co.

K. 15.7.17. Det. D/B.

I knew Pte. Paten, of B Co., L.G.S. He was killed by the same shell as Pte. McIntosh (see report under same date) and I saw his body being carried ~~to~~ to the Military Cemetery at Plugstraet Wood for burial. His number was 5101. I know this.

Informant: Corpl. J.L. Larkin, 3850
49th Australians, B Co., L.G.S.,
Australian Camp, Rouelles.

RLM

P1

A.I.F.

49.

PATEN E.W. 5101 (L.G.S.)

K July 15th 1917. Det. D/B.

I buried him in front of Ploeg Street not far from Warneton in the same grave as a man called Golding. Paten was in the L.G.S. and I was in the trench when he was killed on the 15th July by a direct hit from a shell. That shell knocked 5 of the Gun Team, 2 killed I.wounded and 2 taken away with shell shock.

I do not know where Paten came from in Australia. He was in B.Coy. VII. Pltn.

Informant. Sgt. C.W. 2401. B. VII.
2nd Army Rest Camp.
BOULOGNE. 8.10 17.

HMH.

P. /.

49th A.I.F.

Paten. Pte E.H. 5101.

K. July 15/17.

"We were standing quite near each other, on post about 8 o'clock in the morning. A shell came and Paten was hit. He died in a few minutes. He was buried quite near where he was killed, and a rough cross was put up, we had no time to do more. It was after we had gained our objective, we were holding the new line."

Eye-witness: Yes.

Description: He had relations in England, belonged to L.G.Section.

Informant: Pte S.C. Attewell, 2125
49th A.I.F.
Fazakerley No.1 Western Gen.Hos.
Liverpool.

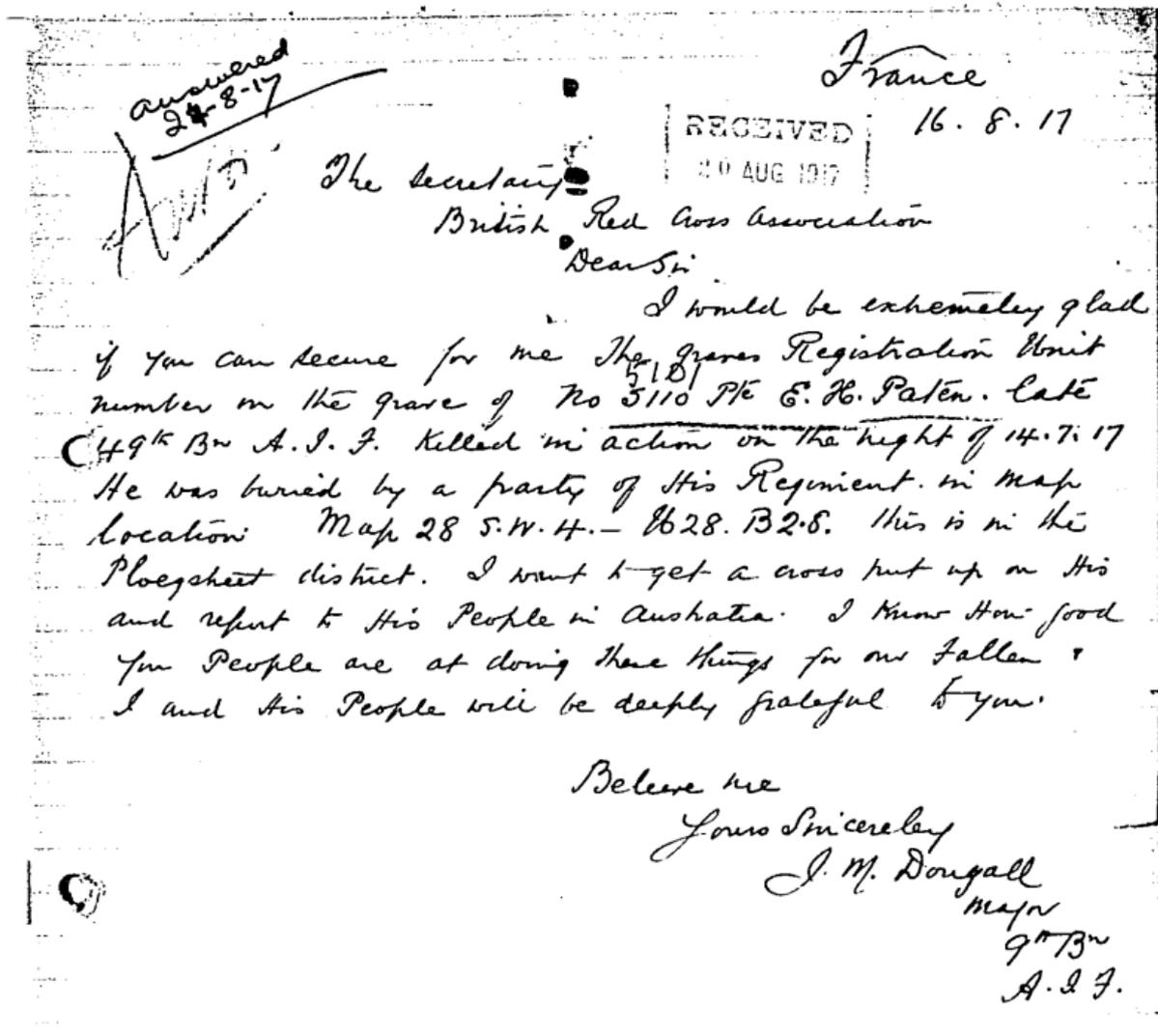
Home address: Alstonville,
Richmond River, N.S.W.

Oct 22/1917.
Agnes M. Johnston.

P.1
ed
Suff

So, there was a body, and it was buried. But where was the burial site? The unit diary showed that the battalion was holding the line between Ploegsteert Wood and Warneton on the day he was killed, so we had an approximate area. But the discovery of the following letter was the most exciting.

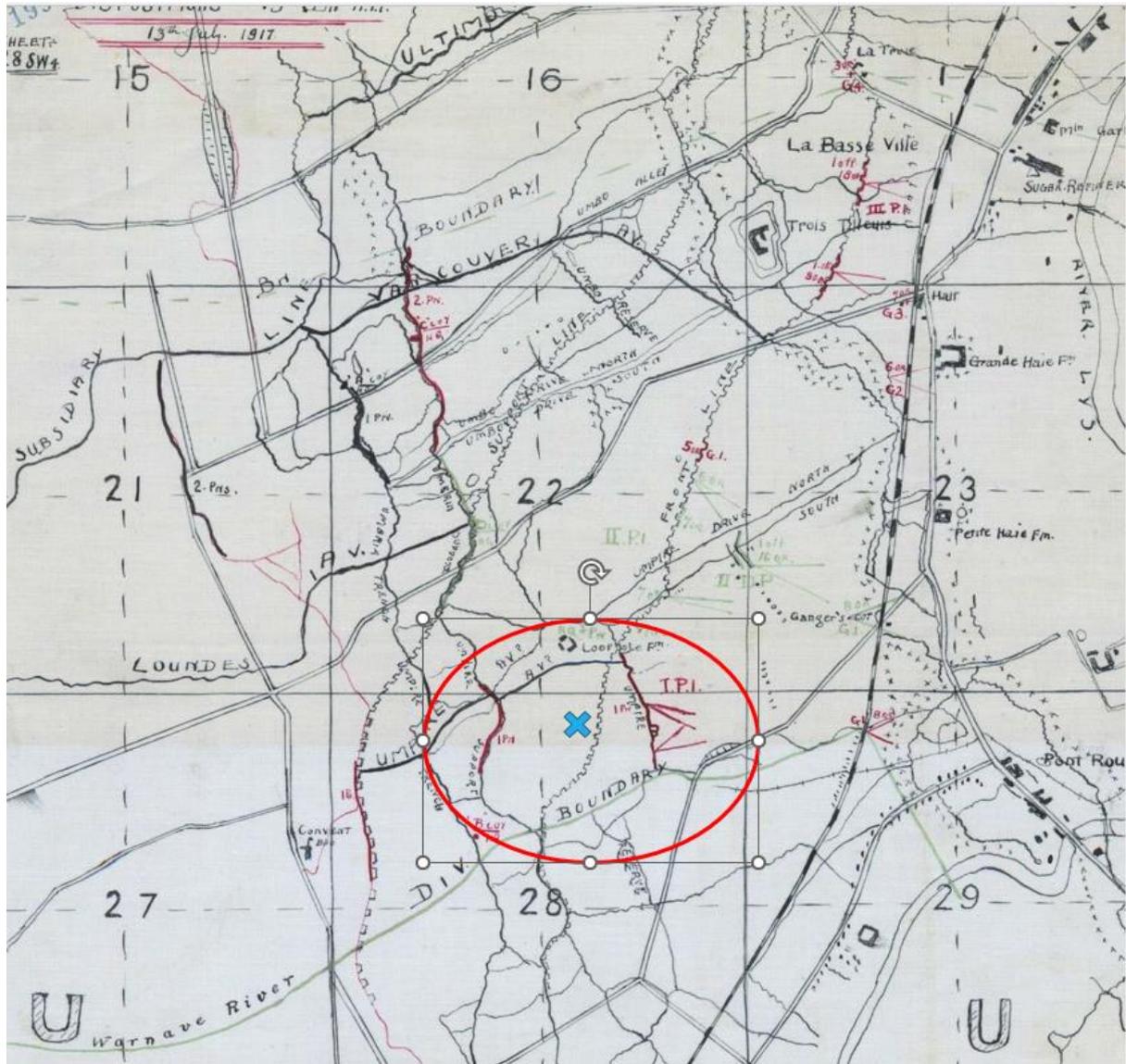
The letter was received by Red Cross from Major John Mitchell Dougall, who served in the 49th Battalion for a while (he was serving in 9th Battalion when he wrote the letter) and provides a breakthrough as to the location of his grave.



The difficult to read letter states “He was buried by a party of his Regiment in map location, Map 28SW4 – U28, b2.8.” I had found the exact coordinates of his grave site. British Army map 28SW4, Grid Square U28, Quadrant b, co-ordinates 2.8. This was stirring. This is a real location, able to be visited. The task now was to locate a copy of this map to see if the site could be identified.

The 49th Battalion diary shows that the battalion had moved into the position only a few days earlier, taking over the trenches from 13th Battalion.

Documentation shows that the sub-units rotated unit for unit, e.g., 1 Platoon (49th) took over the positions of 1 Platoon (13th). Edward was in 7th Platoon and therefore carried his Lewis Gun into an existing 7th Platoon (13th) gun pit when he moved into the line. As luck would have it, a copy of British Army Map 28SW4 modified by the Adjutant of 13th Battalion to contain the positions of sub-units is included in the 13th Battalion unit diary. There, on the map, were the locations of the 7th Platoon Lewis Gun pits. I was able therefore to locate the position of Edward's gun pit. The Adjutant's map is reproduced below.

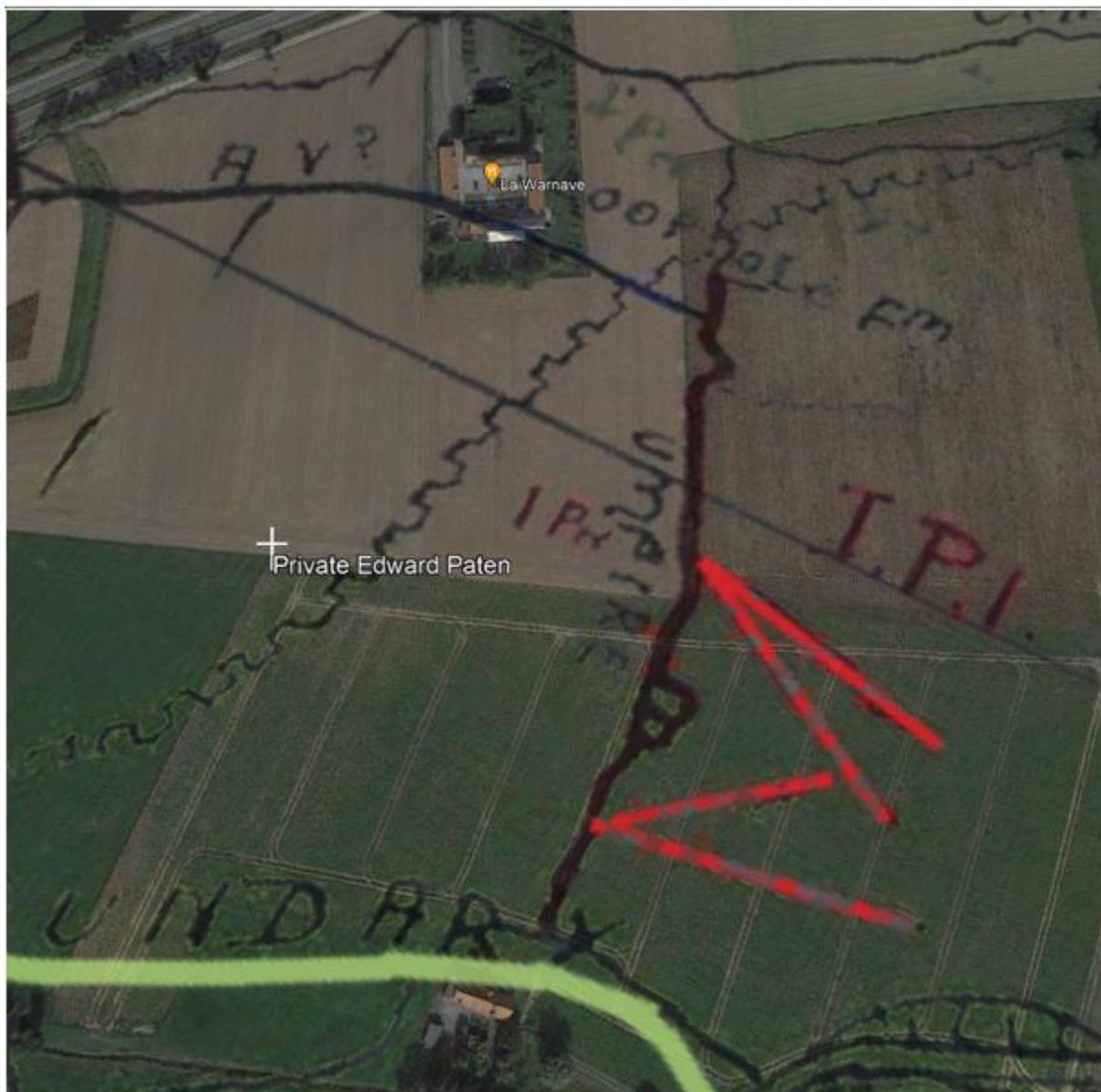


The area of interest is in the red highlighted oval. The red coloured trench line towards the right of the oval is marked 'Umpyre Trench' and was the line allocated to 7th Platoon. The arcs of fire of the two Lewis Gun positions are marked as horizontal 'Vs' reaching out to the right from Umpyre trench. Umpyre Trench was dug in advance of the Front Line to provide better visibility. The main Front Line

is the castellated line running through the red oval from top to bottom, just to the left of Umpire Trench.

The blue cross to the left of the Front Line is the location that the co-ordinates in Major Dougall's letter refer to – the burial place of Edward. In the top section of the red oval, north of Edward's burial site is a farmhouse in a hollow square labelled 'Loophole Farm.'

Amazingly, many of the features of the landscape in the map are still recognizable today, including Loophole Farm, and to my amazement, I found it was possible to accurately superimpose this map onto Google Earth. When this is done, the following combined map is obtained. It was all becoming more and more real.



Loophole Farm is at the top of the picture, the two Lewis Gun positions (apex of the inverted red Vs) are clearly visible and Edward's burial location can be inserted (white cross).

There it was, a lonely grave site on the boundaries of two ploughed fields between Ploegsteert Wood and Warneton. It was difficult to comprehend, surreal, that the myriad pieces of information solved the puzzle and led to an identifiable piece of ground that exists today, and knowing that this is the spot where my Great-great-uncle was buried.

I had, of course, to go there. But to do so would require help. We needed someone who knew the area. I studied contemporary maps in considerable detail and was confident that if someone could get me close, I could walk us to the spot.

Luckily, the Qld Division of MHSA has a member who conducts military tours (John Casey) who was able to put me in contact with Phil Hora, an Aussie based in Arras who conducts Western Front tours with Adam Holloway (Sacred Ground Tours). Phil wrote back and expressed confidence that he could get us there. The pilgrimage was on.

2024 found Anne and I in the UK on a long-planned holiday so the opportunity was there to extend for a few extra days and 'pop across' to Flanders. We boarded the Eurostar, alighting in Lille.

Phil picked us up from our hotel in Lille and drove us close to the area. He parked the car by the roadside, and we headed into the fields on a bitterly cold and drizzly Flanders day, the Flanders mud clinging to our shoes. The field boundaries are little changed since 1917 and the map showed that Edward was buried on the junction of two of them. I had studied the characteristics of this ground for so long that, even though this was the first time I had actually sighted it, I felt like I had been there many times before. We walked up from the farmyard in the bottom of the above picture, along the line that once was Umpire Trench to the point where the fields changed orientation (yes, they are still oriented at exactly the same angle). We then walked along the field boundaries until we came to the marked spot. We were able to orient ourselves by referencing Loophole Farm (now La Warnave Restaurant) and the field boundaries. We had done it. This was where Edward was buried.



Map 28SW4, U28, b 2.8. The burial location of my Great-Great Uncle, Edward Hunt Paten . Loophole Farm in the background. And it is still on the junction of two ploughed fields

It's difficult to describe how it felt. I think 'profound' is an apt word. The work that started in 1983 and consumed hundreds of hours, had finally reached its conclusion.

For a while, as I looked around, I was pleased, proud, fulfilled – but only for a while, because then it suddenly hit me. I realised I was standing at the location where my ancestor was killed and buried – maybe still buried. It was right here, in this paddock that Edward's long trip from Australia ended, just like that. Everything that was important to me just became unimportant and I felt drained and very emotional. Anne saw me struggling and came over to assist. To make it even more profound, two poppies were growing on the very spot (two men were buried here). Just two poppies.

At that point, unbeknown to me, Phil took a photo of us.



We stood for a while and absorbed the circumstances and the setting. Then we walked back along the field boundary to the position of the original Lewis Gun position, about 50 metres along the field boundary, the spot where the shell had killed Edward.

We found the location and, scratching around in the dirt at the site, I uncovered two pieces of shrapnel and several shrapnel balls. I bought them home to Australia with me and they now share a place in my office with my research books.

I don't know if Edward's body was ever recovered. If it was, he was not identified and it will be laying in a grave with a headstone labelled, 'A SOLDIER OF THE GREAT WAR – KNOWN ONLY TO GOD'. Or maybe he is still there, under the spot on which we stood. We walked slowly back to the car.

There was now one more thing to do.

Phil dropped us off at our hotel in Ypres and we headed to the Menin Gate. We had the panel and location numbers of both Cecil and Edward, so we walked to the memorial to pay our respects.

Unfortunately, the Menin Gate is currently being renovated and is mostly covered by scaffolding and tarpaulins. We were unable to view their names.

We did, however, attend the Last Post Ceremony and, as the minute's silence was observed, we thought of our uncles.



The Last Post Ceremony, 15 June 2024

The full story of Edward and Cecil has been researched over many years and documented. It will soon be published in a book with the title, *Two Names on the Menin Gate* with joint authors, Russell Paten and Diane Melloy.



L/Cpl Edward Hunt Paten 5101A, 49th Battalion AIF. Rest in Peace Edward

Feature Article



The Anzac 'A' - a capital idea

From Bob Doneley

I looked at some of the Australian dead. Each of one group of three wore the brass A on their red-and-black colour patches which denoted that the wearers had served at Anzac on Gallipoli. We covered with their waterproof sheets these three men of the peerless 1st Australian Division and went on our way with bitter hearts. - Lieutenant H.R Williams, 56th Battalion, August 1918

As the AIF was expanded and growing in 1916, there grew a desire to distinguish those men who had served at Gallipoli from the incoming reinforcements.

General Monash displayed one expression of such an idea when he paraded his brigade on the celebration of the first Anzac Day in 1916: "Every man who had served on Gallipoli wore a blue ribbon on the right breast, and every man who, in addition, had taken part in the historic landing on 25 April 1915, wore a red ribbon also. Alas how few of us are left who were entitled to wear both."

It seems most likely that the badge was the culmination of several ideas proposed in early 1916 to give recognition to the Australian veterans of Anzac.

The concept of the badge has a hazy origin. Generals Gellibrand, Monash and Birdwood were among those variously given credit for its introduction. Charles Bean gives credit to Brigadier Gellibrand (GOC 6 Bde) for suggesting it to Gen Godley (GOC II Anzac Corps) in early 1916.

Birdwood evidently favoured the idea of some permanent distinction to be worn by Anzac veterans as, on 19th August 1916, he told the five Australian divisions that he had no objection to regimental arrangements being made for those who had landed on the Peninsula in April 1915, had taken part in the fighting in early August, or were present at the evacuation, providing that all eligible personnel of the unit wore an identical mark. This mark was to be an 'A' to be worn on the colour patches of those entitled to it.

There was a mixed reception to the suggestion. Those divisions containing the most Anzacs (1st and 2nd Divisions) favoured the idea while the commanders of the 4th and 5th Divisions were initially opposed to it.

It was left to each division to make its own arrangements about the provision and adoption of the badge. By November 1916, Monash (3rd Division) was able to report: "All who have a right to be called Anzacs among us are now wearing a A metal on the colour patches on the sleeves."

When initially approved, it was stipulated that the wearing of the badge was left to the Commanding Officer of each unit to approve, and that the cost would be borne out of regimental funds.

The result was a number of manufacturers providing the badge, and in different forms and sizes. Examples range in size from 1.5 – 2.5cm in height and appear in a variety of materials other than brass e.g., badges made of gold silk thread and hand-woven brass wire are seen occasionally. However brass letters are the most common of the examples noted to date.

In early 1917, convalescent Anzacs began to arrive in Australia wearing the Anzac A and the status of the badge, not previously seen in Australia, was queried by the Military Board.

There was opposition from the Military Board to the wearing of any such distinction, the Adjutant-General maintaining that the privilege was open to abuse, and that equally gallant service had been displayed by Australian troops in France, and for which no distinction had been awarded.

The Quartermaster-General held similar views, which it might be added were also held by senior officers actually serving abroad with the AIF, however he felt that the withdrawal of the distinction from those already wearing it would engender considerable bitterness and recommended that it continue to be worn for the time being.

The fact that 3rd Military District had directed the wearing of this badge to cease did in fact lead to several misleading statements being made in a leading newspaper of the day to the effect that it had been prohibited throughout Australia.

The Military Board proposed that all personnel who served at Gallipoli be eligible for this badge, and following concurrence by General Birdwood, an amendment to Orders for AIF, Para. 61, published as Military Order No. 354 of 18.8.1917, and later as AIF Order No. 937 of 6.11.1917, established eligibility for wear:

AIF Order No. 937 (November 1917) authorised the badge for the whole force and ordered that it be supplied by Ordnance instead of regimental funds. Subsequent orders made the wearing of the badge compulsory and clarified the eligibility rules.

937. Badges – Gallipoli Service

The following Military Order, issued by the Department of Defence, Melbourne, is published for information:

“Members of the Australian Imperial Force who served on Gallipoli will be entitled to wear over their Unit “Colour Patches” on both sleeves of the Service Dress Jacket and Greatcoat the letter “A”; as an indication that the wearer had taken part in the operations on the Gallipoli Peninsula.”

The provisions of the above will apply in all units to all members of the Australian Imperial Force who come within the scope of the Order.

OC Units will indent on ADOS, Administrative Headquarters, AIF, 130 Horseferry Road, London, for necessary supplies.

(Authority: DAG, AIF, 15/86 of 29.10.17)

A further order, in January 1918 (Military Order No. 20, 19.1.1918) extended the eligibility to service “on the islands of Lemnos, Imbros, and Tenedos, on the transports or hospital ships at or off Gallipoli or these islands or in the AIF line of communications units from Egypt.

It is interesting to note that this final addition embraced the work of the Australian Army Nursing Service so that both men and women were acknowledged as “the Anzacs”.

The letter A was now supplied at public expense vide AIFO 937. Its size was approved as 1 inch (2.5cm) high by AIF Order No. 994, 30.11.1917, then was modified by AIF Order No. 1012 of 11.12.1917 to state that it should be 3/4 inch (1.9cm) high, and of brass.

BOOK REVIEW

Michael C Madden - *Dasher: the Kevin Wheatley VC story*

Big Sky Publishing, 2023

Reviewer: LT COL Russell Linwood, ASM (Retd)

DASHER

The Kevin Wheatley VC Story



MICHAEL C. MADDEN

Foreword by Keith Payne VC AM KSJ

Warrant Officer Class 2 Kevin (Dasher) Wheatley was the first man to receive the Imperial Victoria Cross (VC) in the Vietnam War. He was killed in action during a battle in the Quang Nui Province on 13 Nov 65 and posthumously received the VC.

This book presents Dasher, his nickname, as the consummate soldier as often portrayed in the general literature. Much of it borders on hero worship; a boozing, football playing, irreverent larrikin but professional soldier who does everything that popular opinion expects to hear about a typical Australian military hero. And he dies one, knowing there is only one outcome staying

with a badly wounded fellow Australian soldier under dire circumstances if he does not leave his mate to save his own life.

Having expended all of his small arms ammunition, Wheatley takes two grenades and waits until the enemy is upon him and his dying friend - Warrant Officer Class 2 Ronald 'Butch' Swanton - before detonating them. He could have withdrawn as had the CIDG Vietnamese soldiers they were working with, but he did not. And into history he passes, along with Swanton, both shot in the head by the enemy force left after the two grenade blasts.

Madden tells the story of Wheatley's upbringing and following his dad into the Army even after his only brother was accidentally killed in an Army training accident.

His childhood romance blossoms into an early marriage to his wife who then experiences the vagaries of life in an organisation that at the time, treated families as secondary to the needs of Service. 'If the Army wanted you to have a wife, they'd have issued you one', was a view that prevailed at the time, and with some truth to it.

Nonetheless, Wheatley develops his career, serving in Malaya and engaging in Army life, supported by his wife Edna who struggled as a Service spouse in that time.

The Vietnam War comes, and with it, an early Australian commitment by the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV). He deploys as a member of the AATTV and is in-country at the same time as the first combat troops are committed, one of the battalions he had served in – 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR).

Crossover references in the book show the strong affiliation with regimental life as Australian Infantrymen know it, compared to working with Americans and indigenous troops in Vietnam where his role is training and advising.

Many members of the AATTV become the de facto leaders, having to make command decisions in the face of a capable and determined enemy when the South Vietnamese troops faltered. And it is doing the latter that leads to the VC action.

Before that, he had demonstrated other brave acts so Wheatley's fatal fight on 13 Nov 65 is not a 'one-off' event. These actions, and Swanton's actions on the day, are covered in detail by the author. At the time of publication of Dasher, these had not been recognised by our country.

Madden, an authority on the history of awards of the VC to Australians, frequently raises that lack of recognition throughout the book. And for good reason. He highlights the injustice of a medals system criticised by many others, especially as it was applied during the Vietnam War.

The book is well researched. Members of the Wheatley family, fellow veterans from three countries who were there and are still alive to testify, friends and others with a conscience and determination to see an imperfect awards system held to account, contribute to the story.

It is almost perfect timing then that the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal (DHAAT) on 23 Feb 2024 published findings that address the travesty associated with the lack of proper recognition, notwithstanding the award of the VC at the time to Wheatley.

Thanks to others with determination, persistence and the benefit of time and accurate research of the facts, the DHAAT recommended the post-humous award of the Medal for Gallantry to Wheatley for other actions on 28 May 1965 and 18 Aug 1965 and the Medal for Gallantry to Swanton for his actions on 13 Nov 1965. (Swanton had tried to save the life of another person under fire, receiving a mortal wound in the process, attracting Wheatley's VC act in trying to save him).

Along with other foreign awards also afforded Wheatley - it is fitting consequence of the Dasher story presented by Madden that he, and the man who he would not leave behind, would be finally given full credit for being the soldiers they really were.

In that context, one can better understand the author's passion in telling the story.

There are some technical errors about combat soldiering and military organisations in Dasher, as there are misspellings of names. The book might be improved by having an experienced Infantryman to run a technical eye over the manuscript should a second edition be produced.

Offsetting this lesser observation, and more compelling, is my view that the book is easy to read and very entertaining. It has unique photographs embedded in the text, a publishing technique that appeals to many, and which adds visual support to the narrative.

I particularly like the Epilogue in which family and friends supply testimony about Dasher. The author has given due credit to a great soldier, and must feel satisfied that the DHAAT outcomes of early this year confirm what the author's research presented.

Medals give a golden sheen

Member Allan Fuary has sent in an interesting piece about WWII/BCOF medals in his collection that the recipient has had gold plated.

The medals belonged to No 144218 Corporal Edgar Thomas Reynolds and his service is listed below.

Enlisted in the RAAF in Melbourne on the 26th of August 1945 and taken on as an 'Aircraft Hand'

To No 2 Recruit Depot Bradfield Park on the 27th of August 1943

To No 1 Aircraft Park Geelong on the 2nd of October 1943

To No 3 School of Technical Training at Ultimo on the 30th of January 1944

To Air Gunnery School Sale on the 24th of April 1944

Qualified Armourer on the 7th of July 1944

Leading Aircraftman at No 2 Operational Training Unit Mildura on the 8th of October 1944

To No 2 Personnel Depot Bradfield Park on the 4th of December 1944

To 84 Squadron at Ross River on the 8th of January 1945

To 13 Aircraft Repair Depot Brendan on the 8th of November 1945

To 36 Squadron on the 23rd of February 1946

To 13 Aircraft Repair Depot on the 23rd of August 1946

Promoted Corporal on the 3rd of January 1947

Embarked Sydney for Japan on the 11th of March 1947

To duty 76 Squadron, 81 Wing, British Commonwealth Occupation Forces, Iwakuni, Japan on the 1st of July 1947

Repatriated to hospital Melbourne from Iwakuni, Japan, on the 28th of August 1947 suffering from Encephalitis

To Laverton Transit Departure & Reception Centre on the 15th of March 1948

Discharged on the 22nd of April 1948 at Laverton

Corporal Reynolds tried to re-enlist with the RAAF for Korea but was not successful. He had a colourful life and was often in trouble with authorities.

Allan says he cannot cast any light on why Cpl Reynold would bother having his medals coated in gold.



Humour

76 SQN Tales From Les Anderson

A guard at the gate at Williamstown went to check a car - the driver said 'Air Commodore Cumming', and the guard said 'Thanks mate, I'll look out for him.'

Important Dates for August

August 2, 1941 – Last major action involving Australians at Tobruk.

August 2, 1990 – Iraq invades Kuwait. Led to the Gulf War in 1991.

August 3, 1860 – Second Maori War begins. About 2500 Australians were involved.

August 3, 1914 – Australia offers assistance to Great Britain in the event of war.

August 3, 1916 - Battle of Romani involving the Australian Light Horse.

August 4, 1900 – Battle of Elands River in South Africa.

August 4, 1914 – Great Britain declares war on Germany.

August 5, 1944 – Mass breakout of 378 Japanese prisoners of war at the Cowra camp.

August 5, 1953 – Australian prisoners of war of the Korean War released at Panmunjom.

August 6, 1915 – Battle for Lone Pine begins at Gallipoli.

August 6, 1945 – First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

August 7, 1915 – Australians charge at the Nek.

August 8, 1900 – New South Wales and Victorian contingent sail for China to assist in quelling the Boxer Rebellion.

August 8, 1915 – Lance Corporal L. Keysor awarded VC at Lone Pine.

August 8, 1916 – Battle for Mouquet Farm near Pozieres. About 11,000 Australians were killed or wounded between the 8th and September 3.

August 8, 1918 – Battle for Amiens begins. “The black day of the German Army in this war.

August 8, 1918 – Posthumous VC to Lt A.E. Gaby from Tasmania for actions at Villers-Bretonneux.

August 8-9, 1915 - VC for Lt W.J. Symons of Victoria at Lone Pine.

August 9, 1915 – VC for Cpl A.S. Burton of Victoria at Lone Pine.

August 9, 1915 – VC for Cpl W. Dunstan of Victoria at Lone Pine.

August 9, 1915 – VC for Pte J. Hamilton of New South Wales at Lone Pine.

August 9, 1915 – Posthumous VC for Captain A.J. Shout originally from New Zealand at Lone Pine.

August 9, 1915 – VC for Captain F.H. Tubb of Victoria at Lone Pine.

August 9, 1918 – Posthumous VC for Pte R.M. Beatham originally from the UK for action at Rosieres, east of Amiens.

August 9, 1942 – HMAS *Canberra* sunk off Savo Island while supporting US landings at Guadalcanal.

August 9, 1945 – Nagasaki bombed leading to Japanese surrender.

August 9-12, 1916 – VC for Pte M. O’Meara originally from Ireland for actions at Pozieres.

August 10, 1914 – Voluntary recruitment for the First AIF begins and it remained a volunteer force throughout the war.

August 10, 1919 - VC for Cpl A. Sullivan, originally from South Australia, wins the medal at Dvina River, North Russia serving with the 45th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

August 11, 1900 – Australia's longest serving ship, *Protector* leaves Sydney for China.

August 12, 1918 – VC for Sgt P.C. Statton of Tasmania at Proyart, France.

August 13, 1914 – Establishment of the Australian Red Cross.

August 13, 1940 – Air crash in Canberra that killed three United Australia Party ministers and the Chief of General Staff.

August 13, 1941 – Australian Women's Army Service formed to serve in a variety of roles.

August 14, 1900 – Boxer Rebellion in China ends.

August 15, 1945 – VP Day as Japan surrenders.

August 16-17, 1900 – Imperial Bushmen in action at Buffels Hoek, South Africa. Five were killed and 11 wounded.

August 18, 1966 – Battle of Long Tan in South Vietnam.

August 18, 1971 – Australian Government announces withdrawal from Vietnam.

August 19, 1914 – Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force leaves Sydney for Western Pacific and German New Guinea.

August 20, 1943 – Brock's Creek bombed by Japanese aircraft. One of eight times.

August 21, 1915 – Last major fighting on Gallipoli takes place at Hill 60.

August 21, 1950 – K force recruiting campaign begins in Australia. The last time a volunteer force was raised in Australia to serve in a particular conflict.

August 22, 1942 – 18th Australian Brigade lands at Milne Bay, New Guinea.

August 23, 1918 – VC for Lt W.D. Joynt from Victoria at Herleville Wood, France.

August 23, 1918 – VC for Lt L.D. McCarthy from Western Australia at Madame Wood, France.

August 24, 1916 – Official inauguration of the Australian Comforts Fund.

August 25, 1942 – Battle of Milne Bay begins. First defeat of Japanese on land in the war.

August 26, 1916 – 6th Brigade attacks Mouquet Farm on the Somme.

August 27, 1918 – VC for Lance Corporal B.S. Gordon from Tasmania at Bray in France.

August 28, 1945 – Australian destroyers enter Tokyo Bay.

August 29, 1942 – Posthumous VC for Pte B. Kingsbury from Victoria at Isurava, New Guinea.

August 29-30, 1915 – VC for 2nd Lt H.V. Throssell from Western Australia at Hill 60, Gallipoli.

August 30, 1968 – Death of war correspondent and author C.E.W. Bean.

August 31, 1918 – Battle of Mont St Quentin near Peronne. Considered by many to be the crowning achievement of the AIF in the First World War.

August 31, 1918 – VC for Pte G. Cartwright, 33rd Battalion, originally from London, at Rood Wood near Peronne.

Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division Committee 2023 – 24

President	Russell Paten
Vice President	Glenn Lyons
Honorary Secretary	Jim Nuttall
Honorary Treasurer	Kelly Lyons
Committee Members	Scott Meares, David Geck, Wuzzy Alford

<p><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 September – Bi-Monthly Meeting • 11 November – Remembrance Day • 16 November – Bi-Monthly Meeting 	<p><u>FELLOWS of MHSA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Meyers (Deceased) • Anthony Staunton • Donald Wright <p style="text-align: center;"><u>VALE</u></p>
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MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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Membership Fee Ordinary Member \$50, Family Member \$55 (ie 2 or more domiciled at the one address)

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