

The Gympie Researcher

*The newsletter of the
Gympie Family History Society Inc.*

May 2015 No. 79

I.S.S.N 1035 - 3534



CONTENTS:

- 2. GFHS Committee Members and details**
- 3. Editors comments and Presidents Report**
- 4. Research Fees and details on methods**
- 5. Research queries**
- 6. Cemetery Crawl Report**
- 7. This is your Australian Flag Speaking**
- 8. Library Hours, Meeting Dates**
- 9. How did WW1 Start?**
- 10. The South Pacific**
- 11. Gympie Born who served in South Pacific WW1**
- 14. Egypt**
- 15. Gympie Born KIA Gallipoli**
- 17. Les Prowse Letter; Evacuation of Anzac**
- 18. Publications for sale**

Gympie Family History Society Inc.			
PRESIDENT:	Margaret LONG		
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Lyn FLEMING		
SECRETARY:	Bruce WOODSTOCK ph (0418 275 770)		
Assistant Secretary:	Kerry-Ann LANGFORD		
TREASURER:	Kerry-Ann LANGFORD		
LIBRARIAN:	Val THOMAS		
Assistant Librarian:	Val BUCHANAN		
MEMBERSHIP:	Bruce WOODSTOCK ph (0418 275 770)		
RESEARCH OFFICER:	Faye KENNEDY email c/- gfhs@spiderweb.com.au when writing to the Society, please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for your reply.		
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Lyn FLEMING weslyn@bigpond.com		
PUBLICITY & EVENT CO-ORDINATOR:	Di WOODSTOCK (0419 224 628) di@magicality.com.au		
POSTAL ADDRESS:	P O Box 767, Gympie QLD 4570 Ph: 07 5482 8211 or phone secretary 0418 275 770		
STREET ADDRESS:	downstairs at the Mary Valley Heritage Railway Station, Cnr Mellor & Chapple Sts, Gympie		
CORRESPONDENCE:	All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary: to gfhs@spiderweb.com.au or P O Box 767 Gympie QLD 4570		
MEMBERSHIP FEES:	Annual fees are: All due by 31st August each year Single Membership \$35 Family Membership \$45 (Two members of an immediate family residing at the one address) PRO RATA till 31st August 2015:		
	Dec to Feb	Mar to May	Jun to Aug
Single Membership	\$30	\$20	\$10
Family Membership	\$40	\$30	\$20
INFORMATION:	Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Gympie Family History Society Inc.		
WEB PAGE:	www.gympiefhs.egympie.com		

EDITORS COMMENTS

When you read this edition I'll be on holidays in England.

Di has devoted a lot of extra time putting our WW1 stories together for which I personally thank her very much and I think our whole club should be grateful for the work she puts in. We have found some wonderful stories, some sad, some funny, some leave us quite emotional.

As we have just celebrated the Centenary of Gallipoli I have devoted this magazine to the start of WW1 in the South Pacific to the evacuation of Gallipoli, giving a little history combined with stories of our Gympie born men who enlisted in the Great War. It has been a rush as I'm planning our trip and writing at the same time.

Thank you for the large attendance to our Chinese presentation and recent meetings. I hope you will all continue to support us in our future adventures.

Lyn Fleming

MEMBERSHIP:

We currently have 56 members Welcome!

Research Requests that have come into the research officer...

Laurie O'Neill, Re- Thomas **O'NEILL** and Margaret **BRENAN** NSW

Lisa Watson, Re- Thomas Collins **WEBB** and Mary Ann

Anthony Georgiuo, Re- O'Brien Family Photos, I have referred him to the Gympie Library to help.

Elizabeth Schatkowski, Re- Christian **HOFFMANN** & Maria **MATHEWS** Family Mt Morgan

Faye Kennedy

General Meetings are now held on the 1st Saturday of each month at the Gympie Family History Society rooms in Gympie at 2pm.

All members are more than welcome to attend and in fact are encouraged so you can participate as well.

Saturdays are proving to be easier for members and we are getting good participation so come along and have a chat and a laugh—

RESEARCH FEES

Members Free (when visiting personally to the rooms and doing your own research although we are happy to help guide you or if you are from interstate and are not able to do your own research)

Non Members \$5 per visit to rooms (at our discretion)

Mail & Internet Inquiries

\$30.00 Australia

\$35.00 overseas

For Research Requests:

email c/- gfhs@spiderweb.com.au or mail to: GFHS, P O Box 767, Gympie QLD 4570

The Research Process Explained:

You make your enquiry, we then look to see what information we can find quickly—then we contact you to see if you wish to proceed and advise of the fees.

If you do, we ask for \$30 (or \$35 overseas—to cover extra postage). Once payment is received, we then investigate either your specific queries or start at the beginning and check cemetery records, BDM registers, local registers, school registers, pedigree charts, some shipping, local history books, Gympie Times records, previous cemetery crawl presentations, previous research requests, mining, electoral rolls and so the list goes on.

We hold a lot of various local registers and cuttings and basic items you would find in a local history library. We also have access to the internet and can often suggest websites and ways of searching that you may not have thought of.

We do many hours of ongoing research and then either email the information to you as we go, or mail packets to you so you have the hard copies. We then also keep the information we have researched for you on file and it is then available to future people who may be researching your names too. Many times we have put people in touch with other searchers of their own trees.

Our research people do so much more work than you would realise to help you in your search for information. Please feel confident that everything possible is done by our volunteers to supply you with any relevant information we may have in our library.

The funds raised from your payments for our research, assist us with obtaining further records and to produce books and CD's for easy access of family details in Gympie and the surrounds.

Payment can be by either cheque sent to our P O Box as above or direct deposit into our Bank account is another option for those who feel comfortable with the method. Details of our bank account are: BSB 633000 Account# 153 118 963 and is with Bendigo Bank. We ask that you confirm by email to gfhs@spiderweb.com.au. if possible when you have made the payment. Then we can allocate your payment and get on with the research!

Our research officer is Faye Kennedy.

2015 GYMPIE CEMETERY CRAWLS

WEDNESDAY 27th May
Traveston Train disaster

WEDNESDAY 11th Nov
Digger Crawl



6.30 pm start

\$7.50 per person incl light supper & the booklet
 { \$5 for GFHS Members }

Phone : 0419 224 628 (Di)

(bookings required for catering & printing purposes)

RAIN, HAIL or MOONSHINE—It is always on!

The supper is lovely and the stories are pretty good too!

*We now have a fruit & vegetable tray raffle as well, drawn on the night,
 so bring a few extra \$\$\$ with you*

- *Meet at the shed at the Two Mile Cemetery*
- *Wear suitable clothing as it can be a little cool in the evening*
- *Wear good walking shoes as the area may be wet—dependant on the weather*

Bring a torch if you wish—but this is not necessary

**INCLUDED ARE: ROSIER, HILL, DEAN, REID
 WEX, TICKLE, KOPPE & KERNICK**

Cemetery Crawl Report

The last Cemetery Crawl was a “Diggers” crawl on the 23rd April. It was attended by about 45 people and this included a son of a Digger and then grandchildren of another Digger and extended family members of yet another. So no pressure at all! The ANZAC biscuits always are well received—together with the golden syrup on damper. {even the vegemite was welcomed!}

The next crawl is remembering the Traveston Train crash which claimed 9 lives—4 of which are buried here—many miles from their loved ones. The crash happened on the 9th June 1925 and the stories of survival and assistance are inspiring. Also included are the families of WEX, KERNICK, KOPPE and TICKLE

The next Cemetery Crawl on Tour {#3} is planned for Sunday 20th September 2015 and will be heading by bus to Kilkivan and Woolooga. Prices are \$40 per person and optional picnic lunch is \$17. Booking with Di Woodstock on 0419 224 628 or drop into the rooms and add your name to the list {& pay for your seat at the same time}. Di Woodstock



THIS IS YOUR AUSTRALIAN FLAG SPEAKING.

I am speaking to you, “hear me”. Over the years, you my people came from other parts of the world, some were English, Irish, others were German, Polish, French. You did not speak the same language, but we all pulled together and made this barren land great. We harvested and worked hard. I saw you take arms against our enemies. So listen to me now, be proud of me, I have stood high and looked down on you in the battle fields, saw how my sons and daughters have given their lives for me.

I, the Australian Flag, stand proud of you my people. I stood by you in the depression years, but with faith and courage we overcame and survived. Be proud that you are Australian. I stood by in the battle fields of Gallipoli, you draped your dead with my colours with honour. I am proud of my people. I have seen my land torn apart by hunger and despair, but in spite of all our troubles, we always held our heads high with courage. I have lived in your hearts as we yearn for a better way of living. We as other nations are proud of our heritage, and I the Australian Flag, will always be forever in your hearts and as you raise me every morning, I look down and say to you all “You are my people,” Australia, a nation brave and strong as other nations, seeking freedom and justice throughout the world..

Written by Mrs. Magda Golt, (a Spanish Lady)

LIBRARY HOURS

Wednesday 9.30am to 2pm
 Friday 9.30am to 12pm
 Saturday 1pm to 4pm

HOW DID WORLD WAR ONE START?

The causes of World War 1 are complicated. By 1914 Europe had divided into two groups, The Triple Alliance of Germany, Italy and Austria-Hungary, and the Triple Entente or understanding of Britain, France and Russia. Germany was Europe's most powerful country and had a huge army and was building up a powerful navy. This caused suspicion and great concern in France and Britain. Britain had the world's most powerful Navy but a small Army. The British Royal Family were related to Russia's Royal Family, the Romanovs, and Russia had a huge army. With France on the west of Europe and Russia on the East it was thought Germany would not provoke trouble. Britain owned a quarter of the world, and had a powerful military presence in all parts of the world. Countries such as Canada, India, South Africa, Egypt, Australia and New Zealand were either owned by Britain or highly influenced by the British Empire, this status symbol gave her the title "Great Britain." Germany believed that a sign of great power was possession of overseas colonies, she colonized territories in Southern Africa which caused much anger in London as although it was useless desert it was close to the rich diamond and gold reserve of South Africa. Germany colonized Islands in the South Pacific. A naval race took place between Britain and Germany and both Countries spent vast sums of money building new warships.

The 1st World War began in August 1914 triggered by the assassination of the Austrian Archduke, Franz Ferdinand and his wife, on the 28th June 1914 by Bosnian revolutionary, Gavrilo Princip.

31st July 1914 Germany declares war on Russia.



3rd August 1914 Germany declares war on France. Belgium does not allow German arms through the French Boarder so Germany invades Belgium

4th August 1914 United Kingdom declares war on Germany.

7th August 1914 British War Office asks that Australia seize the German Colonies of Nauru, the Caroline Islands and New Guinea so as to prevent enemy wireless stations from passing information to the East Asiatic Squadron of the Imperial German Navy.

30th August 1914 New Zealand occuppies German Samoa

11th September 1914 Australian forces occupy German New Guinea.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC:

Late 1914 witnessed some notable Australian firsts—the first land operations of the war, the first amphibious landing, the first joint operation, the first coalition operations, the first off shore military expedition planned and coordinated by Australia, the first bravery decoration of the war, the first combat casualties of the war, the first RAN warship lost, and the first enemy warship sank.

Our first coalition operation was on the 29th August 1914 when 1400 New Zealand Expeditionary Forces landed in Western Samoa covered by the guns of HMAS Australia and the cruisers HMAS Melbourne, HMS Psyche, and HMS Phionel. On the 9th September HMAS Melbourne landed a party on Nauru to destroy the wireless station, where upon the German administrator surrendered. On the 11th September a force consisting of mainly Naval reserves were put ashore at Kabakaul to seize a wireless station inland at Bita Paka on the island of New Britain. The landing force experienced strong resistance and resulted in Australia's first casualties of the Great War, 4 sailors and an Army Doctor. Army and Navy personal were put ashore at Rabaul and Herbertshohe and HMAS Encounter was the first Australian RAN ship to fire on an enemy. German New Guinea surrendered on the 17th September 1914. Several RAN vessels contributed to the war effort by capturing German Merchant vessels.



A Monument on Bita Paka says:-

IN THIS VICINITY
TELL THE FIRST AUSTRALIANS
IN THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

Following are 3 stories of Gympie Born men who in some way contributed to the New Guinea Campaign :

LIEUTENANT A.V. AUCHTERLONIE:

Archibald Vivian Auchterlonie was one of three sons of Archibald, a miner and Elizabeth (nee Toms) Auchterlonie. Born in Gympie on the 3rd June 1892, he attended One mile School and had a good secondary education. In 1914 he was working for the telegraph office in Townsville and was a member of the Senior Cadets. On the 8th August 1914 he served on garrison duty at the war station on Thursday Island. He enlisted for service outside Australia on the 14th August and embarked with 1000 soldiers on the 'Kanowna' on the 16th August 1914 to take part in the capture of German New Guinea.

The firemen and stokers on the 'Kanowna' were disgruntled and did not want to leave Australian waters, things became worse when they were put on short water and food rations. They requested more water to remain hydrated and to wash off the coal grime, they were refused. The ship fell behind the rest of the convoy and a message was sent from the ships master "crew had mutinied."

The soldiers took the workers into custody and the 'Kanowna' returned to Townsville on the 18th September with soldiers keeping the ship running. Archibald was discharged on the 18th September 1914.

Archibald Vivian Auchterlonie embarked for Egypt on the H.M.A.T. 'Aeneas' on the 29th June 1915, he served with the 25th Battalion who trained in Egypt during August of that year and by early September was manning trenches at Gallipoli. On the 20th October 1915 Lieutenant Auchterlonie was killed in action from a bullet wound to the head, he is buried at Chailak Dere Cemetery No.2 Anzac, Gallipoli.



PRIVATE EDWARD MC CANN:

Edward Mc Cann was the son of James, a miner and Anne (nee Jordan) Mc Cann. Born in Gympie on the 26th January 1893 he was 5' 5½" tall, fair hair, blue eyes and fresh complexion. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy as a stoker on the 18th April 1914 and served on the HMAS *Cerberus* till the 19th July 1914 when he transferred to the HMAS *Encounter*. On the 12th August *Encounter* intercepted the steamer "Zambezi", the

R.A.N.'s first wartime prize.

October 1915 see's Edward on the HMAS *Warrego* doing patrolling duties in the Pacific. 1916-17 he had transferred to the HMAS *Fantome* which operated in the Bay of Bengal and South China Seas.

Edward was discharged from the Navy on the 24th May 1918, and he enlisted in the A.I.F. on the 14th June 1918. He proceeded overseas on HMAT *Barambah* arriving in London on the 14th November 1918 three days after the war ended. On the 14th January 1919 he transferred to the Australian Army Services Corps as a baker.

In September 1919 Edward applied officially for a discharge in a country other than Australia. He writes "I am responsible for a woman being in a certain condition and should I not marry her (being a soldiers' widow with young children one of whom is delicate) she will lose her pension and be without any means of support. I have no dependents in Australia and a berth waiting for me as soon as I obtain my discharge in U.K." Helen Padwick wrote to headquarters asking them to be kind enough to consider their decision re the discharge in the U.K. of 61444 Pte. E. McCann. "He wishes to marry me and settle in England with me and my little ones of whom I have 3 one of whom is consumptive, and should he have to go to Australia, I, being pregnant by him, would, (being a soldiers widow) forfeit my pension."

Edward produced a letter from F. Bennet and Sons of Lambeth who guaranteed his employment as soon as he was demobilized. His service record shows in November 1919 Edward embarked to Australia on the "*Ypiranga*" disembarking on the 4th January 1920.

A story that needs following up.

Photo: Crew on HMAS *Encounter* 1915.



PETER FRANCIS KING:

Peter Francis King was born in Gympie on the 31st January 1894 to John, a miner, and Helen Mary (nee Miller) King. He was the youngest son of 8. Peter joined the Royal Australian Navy on the 21st February 1914, he was 5' 11" tall, dark hair, grey eyes and fresh complexion..

Like Edward he was a stoker and served on the HMAS *Melbourne*. In September 1914 while Peter was serving on HMAS *Melbourne* a Naval landing party landed on Nauru to carry out the destruction of a wireless station.

On the 1st November she sailed to Albany Western Australia, to join the first convoy of 28 troop ships bound for Egypt, escorting in company with HMAS *Sydney*, HMS *Minotaur* and the Japanese cruise ship *Ibuki*. She detached from the fleet and proceeded to Gibraltar to join the British West Indies Fleet where they patrolled until September 1916 when she joined the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron for operations in the North Sea.



The King Family

In December 1917, *Melbourne* was fitted with a launching platform and carried fighter aircraft from January 1918. She was present at the surrender of the German Fleet in the Firth of Forth, Scotland on the 21st November 1918.

Peter Francis King's engagement expired on the 29th July 1919 when he received his 5th Chevron and was recommended for re-engagement. Peter had another talent he learnt whilst in the Navy—Boxing.

An article in the Western Mail 6th July 1917 states he was the Champion Heavy-weight boxer of the Commonwealth Navy. Peter is recorded as having many boxing bouts

in Western Australia between 1919 and 1921, all recorded him as 'Champion Heavyweight of the Navy

On the 18th January 1927 Peter married Jane Watson at Home Hill and they spent their honeymoon on Magnetic Island. They owned a sugar cane farm at Home Hill. Peter is repeatedly recorded as winning awards for the 'Champion Stand of Cane' at the local shows, and his wife a member of the local C.W.A. for her home made butter. Peter also won prizes for English potatoes and pumpkins as well as dairy cattle. He taught local youths how to box and was once said to have knocked out a recalcitrant horse with one punch.

In 1939 the Kings retired to a vegetable farm at Woody Point and were given a rousing farewell by the residents of Home Hill. An evening at the C.W.A. rooms was filled with well-wishers where they played games, competitions and music before sitting down to a dainty supper. A presentation of a crystal fruit basket was made and their many friends stressed the good work done by both Mr. and Mrs. King for the town and district.

Peter passed away on the 25th May 1942 and is buried at Redcliffe Cemetery. The R.S.S.A.I.L.A. Redcliffe Branch requested all members to attend the funeral of their late Comrade, Peter King.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Photo: HMAS Melbourne, Bermuda 1915.
Peter King the boxer on the left.

Photo: Peter King in
Naval Uniform;



EGYPT:

Most of the men accepted into the army in August 1914 were sent to Egypt instead of going to Britain where they feared they could not withstand the harsh winter on the Salisbury Plains. The British had huge interests in the Middle East and Suez Canal and men were needed in Egypt to meet the threat Turkey posed.

Turkey helped Germany bombard Russia on the Black Sea so on the 2nd November 1914 Russia declared war on Turkey. Britain saw

a chance to cut the ties on Cyprus and Egypt who were part of the Ottoman Empire but under British authority so Britain and France declared war on Turkey on the 5th November 1914.

The Dardanelles is a narrow strait in North West Turkey separating Europe from Asia. With the help of Germany, Turkey was able to improve her defence in the region by heavily mining the water and setting up forts along the shore. In October 1914 The Ottomans closed the Dardanelles to Allied shipping. March 1915 and 6 British and 4 French battleships headed towards the strait. Of the 10 Allied battleships 3 were sunk and 2 damaged. It was then decided that a ground invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula was inevitable.

While the decisions about where and when the Anzacs would fight were being made at the highest levels, the soldiers themselves were being put to the test with training in the Egyptian desert. The men spent at least 8 hours every day except Sunday training. Charles Bean wrote: "All day long, in every valley of the Sahara for miles around the Pyramids, were groups or lines of men advancing, retiring, drilling or squatted near their piled arms listening to their Officer." Letters home told of the tourist locations the soldiers visited and comradery was high.

A three pronged landing was planned to clear the Turkish defenders from the straits. At dawn on the 25th April 1915 the Anzacs landed north of Gaba Tepe later known as Anzac Cove. Below the first photo of the Gallipoli landing.



Some of Gympie's brave men who lost their lives in the Gallipoli campaign.

MAJOR ALLAN WILLIAM NASH:



Allan William Nash was born on the 7th May 1879 to James Nash (The man who discovered gold in Gympie) and Catherine Murphy.

On the 22nd June 1904 he married Janet Glasgow-Henderson at Gympie . They had two sons; Colin and Douglas. Allan was a pupil teacher from 1895 and taught at Two Mile and Gympie Central Boys Schools before taking the position of Head Teacher at Redbank Plains School in 1910. He returned to Gympie later that year to take up the position of Head Teacher at Two Mile School.

In 1907 he was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Australian Light Horse, transferred to the 1st Light Horse July 1912 and in 1913 was leader of the team that won the All Australian Rifle Shooting Championship. August 1914 he was promoted to Captain and on the 15th May, Major. He embarked for Egypt on the 24th September on the '*Star of England*', and proceeded to Gallipoli on the 9th May with the 2nd Light Horse.

Major Allan William Nash was killed in action on the 29th June 1915 and is buried at Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, about 400 yards south east of Anzac Cove. Lieutenant Colonel George Herbert Bourne wrote, "Major Allan Nash was one of the most efficient, conscientious and respected Officers in the regiment and his loss was a serious one."

COLIN ARTHUR BOASE:

Born on the 23rd July 1889 at Gympie to Charles and Harriett Jane (nee Hughes) Boase. His parents were both journalists and part owners of the Gympie Miner. The family consisted of four sons and two daughters, all four sons served in WW1.

Colin was 5 feet 7 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes and fair hair, his occupation was bank clerk. He enlisted on the 22nd August 1914 as a private and his unit was the 1st Battalion F Company. He embarked from Sydney on the A19 '*Afric*' on the 18th October 1914 for Egypt and proceeded to Gallipoli on the 5th April. Colin suffered a bullet wound to the hand and was transferred to the hospital at Heliopolis on the 30th April. He rejoined his battalion on Gallipoli on the 27th May.

Private Colin Arthur Boase was killed in action on the 9th August 1915, at Lone Pine, Gallipoli. He is buried at Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, Plot 11, Row A, Grave No. 21. His parents were living in Caboolture at the time and were upset by the indirect way they were informed of Colin's death. Instead of a telegram from the Queensland Military Com-

mandant being sent to them directly, a Clerk, a stranger from the local Shire Council made a journey of 3 to 4 miles to bring the news. Strong correspondence was sent to Army Headquarters stating that if any of their other sons were killed they wanted their Death Certificates sent straight to them.

PRIVATE OLIVER HARRIS:



Oliver was born on the 1st February 1894 at Gympie. His parents were John and Mary Stone (Polly) (nee Richards) Harris. His father was the mine manager of the Scottish Gold Mine, Monkland. Oliver attended Southport High School, an Anglican Boarding school from 1905 to 1909 and was a member of Delpratt House.

His occupation in 1911 was a miner and he was living in Gympie. He was a big man 6 foot 1 ½ inches tall and strongly built, and by all accounts a bit of a larrikin. 1912-1914 he spent in the 1st Light Horse Regiment.

On the 21st August 1914 he enlisted in the AIF and served in the 1st reinforcements 2nd Light Horse Regiment.

He sailed aboard HMAT 'Boorora' on the 20th December and was AWOL twice before reaching Egypt.

Oliver arrived at Gallipoli May the 9th 1915 and a week later he was shot in the abdomen. He died on board the Hospital ship 'Gascon' at 2.45 am 17th May 1915 and was buried at sea by the Chaplain of the HMS 'Prince of Wales' as the *Gascon* steamed between Gallipoli and Alexandria.

As well as being Honoured on Gympie's Memorial Gates, his name is on the Honour Board at St Alban's Chapel, Southport.

ARTHUR EDWIN BIDDLE:

Arthur was born on the 27th March 1893 at Gympie to Peter George and Maria (nee Turner) Biddle. His father was born in Lancashire, England and came to Australia with his parents on the Sailing Ship "Golden South" landing in Maryborough in 1865 and the family coming to Gympie in 1870.

Peter's occupation was butcher, a trade he followed for the greater part of his life only interrupting this profession to engage in alluvial mining, something he did most successfully. Peter and Maria had a family of nine children.

Arthur enlisted on the 15th December 1914 and embarked on the HMAT 'Seang

Choon' 13th February 1915,

Mrs. Chas. Stamp, his sister, is listed as his next of kin. Arthur was 5 feet 4 inches tall of dark complexion, brown eyes and brown hair.

Arthur's mother passed away 27th October 1898 when Arthur was 5 years old , at the time of his enlistment his father was living with his sister Mrs. Chas. Stamp.

Correspondence was sent to the family stating that Arthur was missing in action from 11th May and the family was assured that the American Ambassador in Constantinople had the matter in hand. A court of enquiry was held on the 28th April 1916 and the testimony of Private Arthur W. Cane stated that : "On the 9th May 1915 at Queen's Post I saw Biddle shot through the head in our trench and killed, and his body taken out of the trench. This was in the Turkish general attack on the 9th. The ground was held."

The results of the inquiry were sent to the Pastor of the Congregational Church of Gympie and Pastor Bert Bentley informed the family of the results.

Arthur was buried about 20 feet behind the main line with about 24 others in a common grave.

There is no known grave for Arthur. His name is listed on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli.

This is part of a letter sent to Reverend John PROWSE of Red Hill, Gympie, by his son Sapper Les Prowse in May 1915.

"At last we are allowed to let you know a little of our whereabouts and doings. Since my last letter to you I have been through an experience which I am never likely to forget. As no doubt the papers have told you ere this, on April 25th, the 3rd Infantry Brigade formed a landing party on Gallipoli Peninsula, and covered itself with glory in a magnificent bayonet charge. If it is my luck to get through the war I am never likely to forget my Baptism of fire, and I know it will be remembered more by me than any other action I am likely to go through in the future. The action is being fought in hilly country, in between these hills are immense gullies or valleys, one in particular being much larger than the others. The enemy on the 25th and 26th poured down this valley a perfect hail of lead and shrapnel, and is rightly named by the men 'The Valley of Death.'

Being attached to the 3rd Brigade Head Quarters of course I was in the thick of it. I don't think there was a man in the whole force who did not on that Sunday morning, have a queer sort of feeling in his heart. Narrow escapes were the order of the day, and I can vouch for it that some of them were very narrow. So far I have escaped without injury and am hoping it is to be my good fortune to do so right through. It is very hard to write an account of the whole action, but were I within speaking distance I could make you realise to some extent what it means when a man volunteers to fight for his King and Country.

I will never forget my feelings as I stood on the Torpedo Boat Destroyer waiting to be rowed ashore. Shots from the beach were hitting the side and funnels of the destroyer and

whistling all round. After a fortnight of fighting, being under fire the whole time we were getting used to it and do not take as much notice of it as at first.

I am indeed proud to be able to say that I am one of the Queenslanders and it will live to every mans credit of this Brigade, who manages to get through, that he was one of the landing party on the Gallipoli Peninsula. “

THE EVACUATION OF ANZAC:

The evacuation was approved in November 1915.

A plan was devised by an Australian, Lieutenant Colonel Charles White to leave the Peninsula without arousing the suspicion of the Turks. This deception was called “Silent Stunts” and they hoped the Turks would think they were preparing for the winter. In several stages working at night a garrison of 41000 was reduced to 26000, each man wrapping sandbags around their feet, no smoking or talking, each man distressed at the thought of the dead comrades they were leaving behind.

If the ever watchful Turks had realized, thousand of casualties might have been inflicted on the departing men. After the 27th November firing and bombardments were resumed.

On the final day the 19th December, to make life look normal a group hung around Artillery Road smoking while another group were having a game of cricket. .

The fleet took the final parties away on the night of the 18-19 and 19-20 December, while a small rear party manned the trenches. Men ran around firing rifles and making enough noise to convince the Turks they were still there.

Drip or “pop off” rifles were set up. Two kerosene tins were placed one above the other, the top one full of water, and the bottom one with a trigger string attached. At the last minute small holes would be punched in the upper tin which would allow water to fill the bottom tin, when heavy enough the rifle would fire. Another device ran a string holding back the trigger through a candle which slowly burnt down severing the string and releasing the trigger.

The last man left North Beach at 4.10am.

The Official estimate is that 8709 men died as a result of the Gallipoli Campaign.

No wonder we say
“Lest we forget.”

Lyn Fleming

Sources: A.W.M, Ancestry, Trove

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE {Please note that some prices have changed}

- **MINING ACCIDENTS SERIES** by Betty D'Arcy, information on mine accidents from the annual reports of the Mines Dept. (Qld) Volumes 1-14 (1878-1945). Cost per volume \$13 plus p&p **B**, order whole set add p&p **E**, order 5 copies add p&p **D**
- **PIONEER REGISTER** of families of Gympie and Surrounds (pre 1900) \$30 plus p&p **B**
- **PIONEER HEADSTONE BOOK** of Tozer Park & King Sts Gympie \$30 plus p&p **B {updated}**
- **A GOLDEN FUTURE 1867-1967** Stories, reports & photos of Gympie (photocopy version) \$15 p&p **B**
- **125 YEARS OF THE ONE-MILE SCHOOL** by Jan Wegert & Elaine Thomson \$12.50 p&p **B**
- **HISTORIC SKETCH OF GYMPIE 1867-1927** Stories & photographs of people & events of that period, includes index. (photocopy version) \$15 plus p&p **B**
- **Roll of Honour Board 1914-1918** by Greg McGuire. Names shown on the tablets at Memorial Gates, Mary Street, Gympie, includes burial details \$15 plus p&p **A**
- **Roll of Honour Board MONKLAND STATE SCHOOL, GYMPIE** by Greg McGuire \$18 P&P **A**
- **Roll of Honour Board ONE MILE STATE SCHOOL, GYMPIE** by Greg McGuire \$18 P&P **A**
- **Roll of Honour Board TWO MILE STATE SCHOOL, GYMPIE** by Greg McGuire \$14 P&P **A**
- **Roll of Honour Board GYMPIE HIGH SCHOOL** by Greg McGuire \$30 P&P **B**
- **COOLOOLA COAST CEMETERY** (Tin Can Bay & Rainbow Beach) transcribed 2001. Headstones, burial register in date order. Cost \$15 plus p&p **B**
- **GYMPIE CEMETERIES**
 1. **Headstone Transcriptions to 1995** \$25 p&p **C**
 2. **Burial Register 1866-1994.** King Street, Tozer Park Road & Two Mile cemeteries \$35 p&p **C**
 3. **Burial Register 1995-1999** Two Mile Cemetery, Cooloola Coast Crematorium register of burials in other towns \$15 plus p&p **A**
 4. **Burial Register 2000-2004** Two Mile Cemetery, Cooloola Coast Crematorium register of burials in other towns \$15 plus P&P **A**
(Set of all 4 books) \$90 plus p&p **D**
 5. **Cemetery Crawl on Tour #1 (Tiaro, Munna Creek, Miva & Gunalda)** \$15 plus p&p **B**
 6. **Cemetery Crawl on Tour #2 (Kilkivan, Brooloo, Bollier, Gheerulla)** \$15 plus p&p **B**
 7. **World War 1 crawl August 2014** \$10 plus p&p **B**
- **THE GYMPIE TIMES 2005 Personal Notices.** Births, Deaths & Marriages, Wedding Anniversaries, Funerals & Memorials for the 2005 year. \$15 plus **C**
- **GYMPIE TIMES SERIES**
 1. **1868-1874** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals and miscellaneous
 2. **1875-1884** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals
 3. **1885-1889** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals
 4. **1890-1894** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals & in memoriam
 5. **1895-1899** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals & in memoriam
 6. **1900-1904** Births, deaths and marriages, in memoriam, wills/probates
 7. **1905-1909** Births, deaths and marriages, in memoriam, inquires/court
(Set of all 7 books) \$95 plus p&p **D** or each book \$15 plus p&p **A**
- **GYMPIE CEMETERY CRAWL BOOKLETS** Presentations of headstones by our members. Approximately 10 names described per booklet. Includes some photos of headstones. Cost \$5 each plus p&p **B** for 3 booklets (we are up to book 34 now) (ask for a list of names)

Postage codes: A=\$4 B=\$5 C=\$8 D=\$10 E=\$16 to any part of Australia

See inside front cover for where to order.