

HUNTERS HILL

REMEMBERS

People and Places



Introduction

Hunters Hill's connections with the military date from the time of European colonisation. From the Boer War through to modern-day conflicts, there has been local involvement. This third booklet in the series covers many of those who fought and survived the various conflicts as well as detailing the support provided from the home front. It also lists the places in the municipality which were utilised during wartime.

Colonial History

Looking Glass Bay



One of the first encounters between European colonists and Indigenous people involved British military officers. It took place at Looking Glass Bay on Parramatta River, bordering the areas which were to become the Municipality of Hunter's Hill and the City of Ryde. Just after the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove in 1788, the first Governor, Captain Arthur Phillip, Lieutenant William Bradley and the Master of the Sirius, James Keltie,

set out to explore the river as far as what is now known as Homebush Bay. Bradley's Journal of 15 February 1788 tells of the party stopping at Looking Glass Bay:

We stopped at a neck of land for breakfast. We were soon met there by a native armed. He laid down his spear as soon as he joined us and had more curiosity than any we had met with. The Governor gave this man a hatchet and a looking glass which, when he looked into, he looked immediately behind the glass to see if any person was there and then pointed to the glass and the shadows which he saw in the water, signifying that they were similar.



Governor Phillip



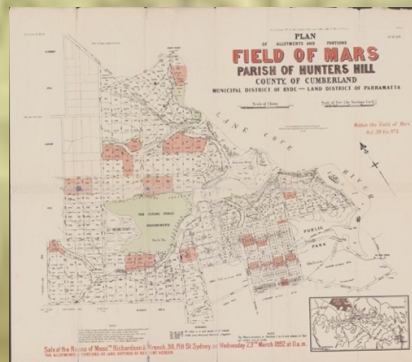
On Looking Glass Bay's western shore is a plaque which commemorates its naming by Governor Phillip and his party. It was erected by Gladesville and District Progress Association in 1979.

Field of Mars



Early military involvement came with the naming of land in the local area. The Field of Mars was so called in 1792 in association with Governor Phillip's land grants to soldiers in the area around Lane Cove River. Mars was the Roman God of War and the original Field of Mars was the ancient Roman site where its army trained and exercised. In 1804, an area of 6000 acres (2400 hectares) of the Field of Mars was decreed as a

common. The common stretched from the border of what is now Hunters Hill through Ryde to Pennant Hills. In the ensuing years, large portions of the Field of Mars were sold off for private development, including initially for market gardening and later housing. All that exists today is the Field of Mars Cemetery and the Field of Mars Wildlife Refuge, both within Ryde City Council's boundaries.



Militias (Pre-Federation)

With British colonial military forces progressively withdrawing from Australia prior to Federation, individual states began to establish their own militias which were the forerunners of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), formed in 1914.

THOSE WHO SERVED

Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Weekes (1852-1922)



Born in 1852, Alfred Weekes lived in Hunters Hill in the house he had built, *Cleverton*, 21 Ferdinand Street (1876). His occupation was warehouseman. He was originally a member of the 1st Regiment NSW Volunteer Rifles. This unit's name was changed to 1st Regiment NSW Volunteer Infantry in 1878. He formed K Company (Hunters Hill) of the regiment in the early 1880s. He was commissioned as a major and later made lieutenant colonel in command of the Infantry, a post he held until retiring to country NSW in 1900. He was then placed on the retired list with the rank of colonel. He was Mayor of Hunters Hill in 1889. His daughter married Louis Alfred (Fred) Meyers, also a Mayor of Hunters Hill (1926-7, 1936-9). Weekes died, at the age of 70, in 1922.



A painting depicting the NSW contingent departing for the Sudan in 1885

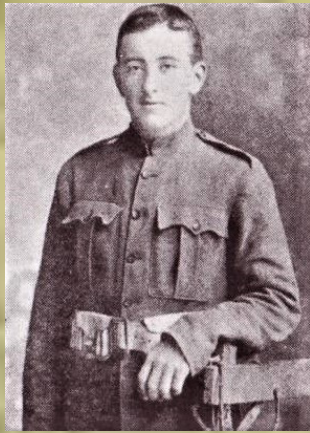
Boer War (1899-1902)

About 16,000 Australians, mainly drawn from state-based military forces, are estimated to have fought in the Boer War, of whom there were about 600 casualties and deaths. A small number of Hunters Hill residents or those with connections to Hunters Hill are known to have taken part.



THOSE WHO SERVED

Lieutenant Colonel John d'Apice (1887-1952)



John Edmund Francis d'Apice was born in 1887. He went to South Africa as a private. However, he received a commission in the field into the Royal Artillery. He was wounded at Elandsfontein while in charge of an armoured train. He was invalided out of the service and was welcomed back to the family home in Hunters Hill at a large gathering at Hunters Hill Town Hall on 8 August 1901 at which former NSW Premier and local resident, Sir George Dibbs, presided. He later served with the British Army up to the rank of lieutenant colonel until his retirement. During World War 1, at Gallipoli, he was twice Mentioned in Despatches and received the Distinguished Service Order. He died in Jersey, Channel Islands, in 1952. He was aged 65.

Lieutenant Colonel Bob Lenehan (1865-1922)

A student of St Ignatius College, Riverview, Robert "Bob" Lenehan, was born in 1865. He was a lawyer by profession and lived at *College View*, James Street, Hunters Hill, for part of his life. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant into the 1st Infantry Regiment and went to South Africa in K Company in 1900. He was promoted to major in the Artillery, but dropped a rank to serve with the NSW Mounted Rifles. He served at Orange Free



State, Transvaal, and Elands River. In February 1901 he was appointed to command the Bushveld Carbineers as a major. The Carbineers were a small force created to counter the guerrilla tactics of the Boers who had been defeated as an army. It was a mixture of nationalities including locals. In September 1901, a detachment of the Carbineers under Sergeant "Breaker" Morant captured and shot a guerrilla leader called Kelly. A short time later Morant, Handcock, Wilton and Lenehan were court-martialled. Morant and Handcock were executed by firing squad. Lenehan was deported to Australia in February 1902. With Lenehan's arrival back home, Prime Minister Edmund Barton learned that the British Army had shot two Australians, which caused a diplomatic rift between the two countries.

Lenehan continued his military career until his role as co-respondent in a high-profile divorce caused him to leave the service in 1917. By then he was a lieutenant colonel. He received the Volunteer Decoration for long commissioned service. He died, aged 56, in 1922. One of his sons, Lieutenant Robert Eric Lenehan, was serving with the 1st Field Artillery Brigade during World War 1 when he died of pernicious anaemia in Sydney in 1916.

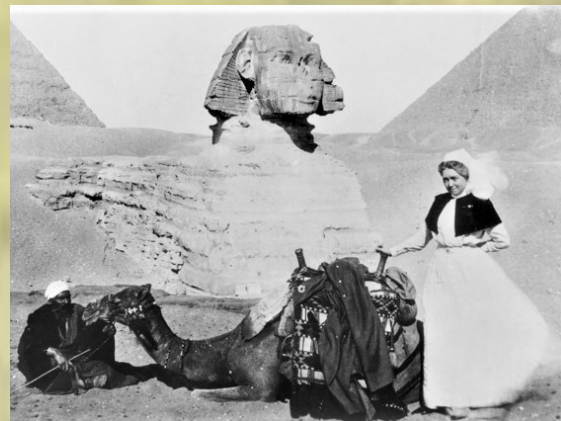
Major Charles Lydiard (1868-1922)



Charles George Sydney Lydiard was born in Bathurst in 1868. He enlisted in the NSW Mounted Rifles as a trooper. As a sergeant, he was part of the contingent from NSW at the Queen's Jubilee in England in 1897. He spent two tours of duty in various parts of South Africa. He was twice Mentioned in Despatches. He died of cancer in Hunters Hill in 1922. He was aged 54.

Sister Bessie Pocock (1863-1946)

Mary Anne (Bessie) Pocock was matron at Gladesville Hospital from 1911 to 1914 and from 1919 to 1924. Born at Dalby, Queensland, on 20 July 1863, she undertook nursing training at Sydney Hospital in the 1890s. In 1899, she became one of the original nurses to join the NSW Army Nursing Reserve and was among 14 nurses who were selected to accompany the NSW second contingent to the Boer War. She departed Sydney on the Steam Ship (SS) Moravian on



17 January 1900 and disembarked at Cape Town, South African Republic. She worked as a nurse in hospitals in East London, Johannesburg and Middleburg, Transvaal, where she was Sister-in-Charge until the end of the war in May 1902. For her war service, she was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Queen and King's South Africa Medals. She returned to Sydney Hospital in June 1903, then was Matron of hospitals for the insane at Newcastle from 1907-1911 followed by Gladesville until the outbreak of World War 1.

On 15 October 1914, she departed with 1 Field Artillery Brigade on the SS Argyllshire for Cairo, Egypt, where she took up duty as Senior Sister at the 2nd Australian General Hospital. From July 1915 to January 1916, she was Matron of the hospital ship Assaye which carried patients from Gallipoli, Turkey, and Alexandria, Egypt, to Malta and England. On 30 January 1916, she was appointed temporary matron of the Mena (Egypt) Convalescent Depot. For that and her previous work, she received a mention in despatches. From April 1916 to October 1917, she worked in Australian hospitals in France and Belgium. Her final wartime appointment was Matron of the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England, from January 1918 to February 1919. She returned to Australia as nursing Sister-in-Charge of the SS Zealandia in May 1919. Her military appointment ended in Sydney on 30 October 1919.

In December 1919, she resumed her Matron's position at Gladesville Hospital. In 1924, she established a convalescent hospital called Ismailia at Chatswood. On retirement in the late 1930s, she returned to the family property, The Punchbowl, near Grafton, where her nieces looked after her. She died there on 16 July 1946, aged 83.

World War 1 (1914-1918)

More than 400 residents and people with ties to Hunters Hill enlisted for active service in World War 1 and a number of them were honourably decorated. At least 50 were killed in action or died of their wounds.

The municipality proudly claimed that it had the greatest response in enlistments in proportion to its population out of all other local government areas in Australia. The 402 men and nurses who signed up accounted for one in six based on the 1911 Census compared to one in eight for Australia overall.





Soldiers and nurses from Hunters Hill

Early in the war, Hunters Hill Rifle Club was formed to teach men the rudiments of drill and the use of arms. It resulted in many of the volunteers obtaining non-commissioned and commissioned ranks. In connection with this movement, a local rifle range was established. This enabled the members to attain first-hand knowledge of weapons and boosted their enthusiasm. Some of the members who were initially rejected for active service attended a military school and obtained their commissions as lieutenants on the reserve list of officers.

When the need for recruits became more urgent, a local recruiting committee was formed. This organised canvassing in sections of the whole municipality. However, it was found that there were few fit and free men who had not already enlisted.



Hunters Hill couple

THE
HUNTER'S
HILL
HUN
HUNTING
HUNDRED

Will fall in at the Circular Quay between the Parramatta and Lane Cove Wharves, on **Monday, July 1st, 1918**, at 8.45 a.m., and will march, headed by the 2nd District Guard's Band, to the Hyde Park Recruiting Depot.

A feature of recruitment was the *Hunters Hill Hun Hunting Hundred*. This group was formed in July 1918 and was largely comprised of married men with families who had decided to join up despite family responsibilities. The organisers were WR Goulding, CE Holgate and WC Howard.



THOSE WHO SERVED



Lieutenant Charles Addison (1883-1923)

Charles Glentworth Addison was born in Balmain in 1883. He was one of seven sons of the late Glentworth Walsh Fraser Addison, for many years Chief Stipendiary Magistrate in Sydney and former Gold Commissioner for the north, and Mrs W Addison, *Kyarra*, 1 Madeline Street, Hunters Hill. He attended Sydney Grammar School, read law at university and was admitted to the Bar in 1912. He enlisted as a private in the 1st Field Ambulance on 8 February 1915. His unit embarked for Egypt on board His Majesty's Australian Transport (HMAT) Argyllshire on 10 April 1915. After being wounded at Gallipoli, Turkey, he was invalided to England where he later received his commission as a lieutenant and continued service until the Armistice. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He returned to Australia in January 1919 where he resumed his legal practice and was appointed Crown Prosecutor for the south-western district of NSW. He died in hospital at Darlinghurst on 2 December 1923. He was aged 40. He is buried at Field of Mars Cemetery, North Ryde.



Kyarra

Lieutenant Colonel Blue Allan (1895-1967)



Herbert Trangmar “Blue” Allan MC, OBE was the second of three sons of the Assistant Director General of NSW Public Works, Percy Allan and his wife, Alice Mary (nee Trangmar), *Kereelah*, Mount Street, Hunters Hill. Called “Blue Allan” because of his fiery red hair, he was born in Woolwich on 5 January 1895. He attended St Ignatius College, Riverview, and enrolled at Sydney University in 1914. He enlisted in the 17th Infantry Battalion on 6 September 1915. He embarked as a lieutenant with his unit from Sydney on board HMAT Wiltshire on 22 August 1916. In February 1917, his Battalion was in action on the Western Front. In the attack on Passchendaele Ridge, Belgium, on 9 October 1917, he was the sole surviving officer of two commands and was awarded the Military Cross. His military appointment terminated in Sydney on 26 May 1919.

After World War 1, Allan returned to university where he completed an arts degree, majoring in military science with first class honours. On 19 February 1929, he married Gertrude Mary Hodge (d. 1957) in St Mary’s Catholic Church, North Sydney. In the 1920s and 30s, he worked as a gold miner and plantation overseer in the New Guinea Territory. While there he was a leading member of the RSL Imperial League of Australia and President of the New Guinea Mining Association.

At the outbreak of World War 2, Allan returned to Sydney to enlist again. He embarked for the Middle East in October 1940 as a company commander in the 2nd/17th Infantry Battalion. He was promoted to major on 7 January 1942 and became the battalion’s second in command in Libya. After the withdrawal to Tobruk, Libya, in April 1942, he was made brigade major. For his performance at the Siege of Tobruk, he was awarded an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. He was back in Australia in February 1943 and in June that year was promoted to lieutenant colonel. He then served as Australian Army Representative, Staff Coordination, Milne Bay, Papua. He was promoted to temporary colonel and commanded the Pacific Islands Regiments from October 1945 to February 1946. He was mentioned four times in dispatches during his war service. He transferred to the Reserve of Officers with the rank of honorary colonel on 7 May 1946.



After World War 2, he was in partnership in a transport company in Rabaul, New Guinea. In later life, he and his wife settled on a banana farm near Woolgoolga, NSW. He died on 23 May 1967. He was aged 73. His oldest brother, Myrton Trangmar Allan, was killed in action near Pozieres, Somme, France, in 1916. His younger brother, Keith Allan, also served in both the first and second World Wars.

Lieutenant Keith Allan (1896-1964)

Keith Trangmar Allan was the youngest son of the Assistant Director General of NSW Public Works, Percy Allan and his wife, Alice Mary (nee Trangmar), *Kereelah*, Mount Street, Hunters Hill. He attended St Ignatius College, Riverview, where he was a member of the cadets. At the age of 20, he enlisted as a private with the 20th Infantry Battalion. His unit embarked on HMAS Wiltshire on 7 February 1917. He served on the Western Front in France and Belgium but was invalided to England suffering from shell shock. He returned to Australia as a lance corporal on 13 December 1918. After working with his older brother, Herbert Allan, in Rabaul, New Guinea, through the 1920s, he returned to Australia to be a farmer and grazier at Inverell, NSW.

Due to his previous experience in New Guinea and his war service, Allan re-enlisted during World War 2 when the conflict spread to the Pacific. Although unfit for active service, he served with the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit, which was part of an Australian Army unit responsible for the civil administration of New Guinea and Papua. Part of the unit's job was organising local labour for the war effort, including the "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels". After the war, he returned to Australia as a lieutenant and to his property, *Stirling*, at Inverell, NSW. He died, aged 68, in 1964. His eldest brother, Myrton Trangmar Allan, was killed in action near Pozieres, Somme France, in 1916. His older brother, Blue Allan, served in both the first and second World Wars.

Colonel (Army Chaplain) Alfred Austin (1870-1930)



The Rev Alfred Herbert Austin was minister of Hunters Hill Congregational Church from 1926 to 1930. He was also secretary of the Congregational Union. Born in Macclesfield, South Australia, in 1870, he was ordained in December 1902 and graduated with honours in philosophy the following year. He enlisted in Sydney with the Army Chaplains' Department on 8 September 1916. During 1916-1917, he served as senior army chaplain on troopships. After the war, he was a minister in Ipswich, Queensland. He spent a year in the UK in 1924. He died, aged 60, in Sydney on 30 December 1930. He is buried at the Field of Mars Cemetery, North Ryde.

Lieutenant Colonel Arnold Brown (1894-1960)



Arnold Brown OBE, DSO, MC was born on 22 July 1894 in Hunters Hill. He was the 12th child of James and Clara Brown, *Pitsmoor*, corner Ryde Road and Martin Street, Hunters Hill. His father was an alderman for several years and Mayor (1896) on Hunters Hill Council. He attended Sydney Grammar School and Bathurst Experimental Farm before becoming a jackaroo and later overseer in country NSW. He enlisted in the AIF on 5 March 1915. He was posted as a sergeant in the 28th Battalion. He arrived in Gallipoli, Turkey, in September 1915 and remained there until evacuation in December 1915. In February 1916, in Egypt, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and the following month was sent to France. He was awarded the Military Cross following his actions at the Battle of Pozieres and was promoted captain in September 1916. In November 1916,

he was shot and wounded during the Battle of the Somme. After treatment in England, he returned to his battalion in early 1917. He was promoted to temporary major. During the Battle of Bullecourt in May 1917, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. He was wounded again in September 1917 but after hospitalization returned to the field in February 1918. In April 1919, he returned to Australia and was subsequently discharged.

In civilian life he took up farming again in Coonabarabran. When World War 2 broke out, he rejoined the AIF and was sent to the Middle East with the 2nd/1st Pioneer Battalion. On 9 March 1941, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel. He commanded the battalion in the defence of Tobruk, Libya. Mentioned in dispatches and appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1942, he was appointed commander of the 36th Battalion, then serving in Papua, and later commander of his previous battalion, now serving in New Guinea. Because of illness, he was in hospital intermittently for five months until March 1943. From then until the end of the war, he held administrative positions in New Guinea, Melbourne, Queensland and Singapore. After the war, he presided over trials of Japanese war criminals in Darwin.

He took up farming once more, this time at Windsor. However in 1958 he was classified as totally and permanently incapacitated due to his war service. He died from heart disease at Batemans Bay on 6 March 1960, aged 66. A son had been killed in service with the AIF during World War 2.

Cuneo and Rinaldi Brothers



The Dagos, Egypt, 1914: John Andrew Cuneo (far left), Francis Rinaldi (third from right), Garibaldi Menotti Cuneo (second from right) and Louis Joseph Rinaldi (far right).

The pioneer Cuneo and Rinaldi families of Hunters Hill were well represented in war service. Two of Thomas and Mary Ann Cuneo's ten children, Garibaldi Menotti (1890--1968) and John Andrew (1892-1967) both served in the Australian Light Horse as did brothers, Francis (1896-?) and Louis Joseph (1891-?) Rinaldi, Madeline Street. The Australian Light Horse was a skilled formation of mounted infantry which mostly served in Egypt and the Middle East. The unit contributed to the Allied victory against the Ottoman Empire in the Sinai and Palestine Campaigns. Garibaldi Menotti Cuneo became a staff sergeant. He returned to Australia on 15 May 1919. John Andrew Cuneo, aged 23, enlisted as a private on 27 January 1915. He embarked on HMAT Bakara from Newcastle on 22 May 1915. He was promoted to sergeant. He returned to Australia on 23 July 1919. He died aged 76 at Richmond. The four young soldiers called themselves "The Dagos".



One of "The Cuneo Boys"

Staff Nurse Edith Dowling (1886-?)

Edith Rebecca Dowling was born in 1886. She was the daughter of Mrs RE Dowling, *Lugano*, Futuna Street, Hunters Hill. Her military rank was listed as staff nurse. Her role was as a masseuse (later to develop into the profession of physiotherapy). She embarked, with other nurses, from Sydney on board Royal Mail Ship (RMS) Morea, renamed HMAT Morea, on 21 August 1915. Dowling returned to Australia on 17 January 1919.



RMS Morea

Captain (Army Chaplain) Montague Hinsby (1886-1956)



The Rev Montague Golden Hinsby was Rector of the Anglican Parish of Hunters Hill from 1925 to 1945. Born in Isleworth, UK, in 1886, he and his parents immigrated to Australia. He was ordained a priest in Sydney in 1910. At the age of 27, he was appointed Rector of the Parish of Penrith. His offer of active service was initially turned down so he took a commission as a subaltern in the Senior Cadets until he was appointed an army chaplain with the rank of captain. On 1 August 1917 he embarked from Sydney on HMAT A7 Medic for the western front, serving in Flanders, Belgium. He returned home on 12 June 1919.

From 1925 until the outbreak of World War 2, the Rev Hinsby was serving as Anglican Rector in Hunters Hill, living with his wife and daughter at the Rectory in Ambrose Street. As Canon Hinsby, he again volunteered for military service. He became a chaplain to the hospital ship *Manunda*. However the vessel was damaged by enemy action in the first Japanese raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942 during which he was wounded. He was a hospital patient until 1943 after which he was medically discharged from the military. In 1944 he returned to parish work at Hunters Hill. However, by the end of that year, he took premature retirement because of his war disabilities. He died in Concord Repatriation Hospital on 12 June 1956. He was aged 70.

Lieutenant Douglas Lysaght (1896-1983)

Douglas Royce Lysaght was born in Berrigan in 1896. He was the son of Herbert Royce and Ellen Zoe Lysaght, *Glenworth*, 5 Ady Street, Hunters Hill. He attended The King's School, Parramatta. He was an engineering student at Sydney University when he enlisted as a sapper with the 9th Field Company Engineers on 20 March 1916. His unit embarked from Sydney for the Western Front on board HMAT Ajana on 5 July 1916. He was discharged from his unit on 29 May 1917. He later served with the British Army in India and Afghanistan. After returning to Australia in 1919, he spent 20 years on the land and acquired a grazing property at Murrurundi. In 1959, he became chairman of the Commercial Banking Company. He died on 6 February 1983. He was aged 87.

Lieutenant Gilbert Makinson (1885-1928)

The younger son of solicitor Henry and Margaret Makinson, *Dunham House*, 2 Massey Street, Gladesville, Gilbert Philip Makinson was born in Ryde on 18 February 1885. He was a law clerk when he enlisted in the 5th Divisional Artillery in 1914. He was treated for dysentery at the First Australian General Hospital in the Heliopolis Palace Hotel, Cairo, Egypt, in November 1915. He was appointed a second lieutenant on 2 May 1916 and to the rank of lieutenant on 23 September 1916. On 6 September 1917, he was transferred to the 14th Field Artillery Brigade. He was discharged on 29 April 1919 and paid his own way back to Australia on the Orient Line's SS Osterley. He died on 5 March 1928. He was aged 43. His brother, Roger Henry Makinson, died of wounds received at Gallipoli, Turkey.



Australian Hospital, Heliopolis Palace Hotel

Private Hugh Oag (1897-1973)



Hugh Stewart Oag was born in Balmain on 5 February 1897. He was the son of builder John Alexander and Sarah Craig Oag, *Craigie-lea*, 9 Campbell Street, Hunters Hill. A third-year medical student, he was living at home in Hunters Hill when he enlisted as a private in the 19th Infantry on 24 May 1918. He was aged 21. He embarked from Sydney bound for Europe on board SS Gaika on 30 July 1918. He later joined the Army Medical Corps. He returned to Australia on 3 April 1919. He resumed his studies and qualified as a doctor. He married in 1927. He died on 19 January 1973. He was aged 75. His funeral took place at Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, North Ryde.

Lieutenant William Owen (1899-1972)

William Francis Langer Owen PC, KBE was born in Hunters Hill on 21 November 1899. He was the son of Sir Langer Meade Loftus Owen and Mary Louisa Dames (nee Longworth), *Ellesmere*, 20 Foss Street, Hunters Hill. Both Owen's father and grandfather served as judges of the Supreme Court of NSW. He attended Sydney Grammar School. He left school to enlist as a sapper in the 7th/9th Field Company Engineers on 31 December 1915, increasing his age by two years. He embarked from Sydney, bound for Europe, aboard HMAT Hororata on 2 May 1916. He arrived in France on 5 September 1916. He was wounded in action during the Battle of Menin Road, part of the Battle of Passchendaele, on 20 September 1917. He returned to service on 7 October 1917 and was wounded a second time at the Battle of the Somme on 23 May 1918. He was evacuated to a military hospital in Orpington, Kent, England, and three months later was reassigned to the training depot of the Australian Flying Corps. He was in England when the war ended. Promoted to second lieutenant on 1 April 1919, he returned to Australia on 29 September 1919 and was discharged on 15 November 1919. After attending law school at Sydney University, he was admitted to the Bar on 2 August 1923. His appointment as King's Council was on 26 March 1935. On 1 April 1936, he was appointed an acting judge of the Supreme Court of NSW, becoming a permanent judge in 1937. He was elevated to the High Court of Australia on 22 September 1961, a position he held until his death.



During World War 2, he was chairman of the Central Wool Committee. In 1945, he was a member of the Australian Delegation to the Imperial Wool Conference, established to

dispose of wartime stocks. He served as chair and one of the three commissioners of the Royal Commission on Espionage in Australia in 1954, following the defection of Soviet diplomat, Vladimir Petrov. He was appointed a Knight Commander of the British Empire on 1 January 1957 and sworn into the Privy Council in 1963. Sir William was taken ill on 29 March 1972, after suffering poor health for five years due to an aneurysm. He died two days later in St Luke's Hospital, Darlinghurst. He was aged 73. He was survived by his wife, Joan, and a daughter.



HMAT Hororata

Captain Leonard Sewell (1886-1964)



The second son of William Sewell JP and his wife, Emily, *Ethandune*, 5 Woolwich Road, Hunters Hill, Leonard Greville Sewell MC was born in North Sydney on 7 August 1886. He attended Sydney University where he gained a Bachelor of Engineering degree. He was a designing draughtsman by occupation. He enlisted with the rank of lieutenant with the 2nd Infantry Battalion. At enlistment, his next of kin was given as his wife, Mrs Elsa Sewell. His unit embarked from Sydney for the Western Front on board HMAT Argyllshire on 30 September 1915. He was promoted to captain with the 21st Machine Gun Company on 5 July 1917. As second in command, he took part in action at Ypres, Belgium, from 22 September until he was wounded on 31 October 1917. He was awarded the Military

Cross and “mentioned in dispatches” for displaying “qualities of courage, determination and endurance to a marked degree” as a “gallant and tactful leader”. He was discharged on 26 October 1919. As well as the MC, he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His brother, Augustus William Sewell, was killed at Gallipoli, Turkey, in 1915.

Major Adam Simpson (1888-1957)

Adam James Goldie Simpson was born in Marwood, Devonshire, England, in 1888. He was one of the sons of NSW Supreme Court Justice Archibald Henry Simpson and his wife, Alice Marion, *St Ives*, 15 Crescent Street, Hunters Hill. He enlisted with his older brother, Lance Corporal George Barré Goldie Simpson (1887-1915), for war service in August 1914. He was appointed as a lieutenant in the 4th Infantry Battalion. After serving in Egypt and Gallipoli, he joined the 56th Battalion and saw action on the Western Front in Europe. He was promoted to major in 1916 and became temporary commanding officer of the merged 54th/56th Battalion. In 1917, he was appointed temporary lieutenant colonel and became the battalion's commanding officer. He married Marjorie Mary Camden Blaxland from Goulburn, NSW, in Leigh, Lancashire, England, in December 1918. He returned to Australia on 27 June 1919. In civilian life, he followed a legal career in Sydney. He died, aged 69, at Midhurst, Sussex, England, in 1957. His brother, George Barré Goldie Simpson, was killed at Gallipoli, Turkey, in 1915.



Gallipoli

Private John Simmonds (1891-?)

A nurse at Gladesville Hospital, John Knight Simmonds enlisted at the age of 24 as a private in the 59th Infantry Battalion on 18 July 1915. For gallantry and devotion to duty near Villiers-Bretonneux, France, on 27 April 1918, he was awarded the Military Medal. His citation for bravery reads:

At the commencement of the enemy's barrage, all telephone lines to forward companies were out. Although he had no previous knowledge of repairing, Private Simmonds volunteered to go forward and mend the lines. He worked up and down the line during the barrage, which lasted an hour, and mended breaks as they occurred. It was through his courage and resourcefulness that communication was kept and situation reports were not delayed. He was subsequently wounded.

On Simmonds' return from war service, a cottage in Hunters Hill was handed over to him and his wife and two children. The house was built by the Voluntary Workers' Association. It was the third such home to be erected in the area for returned servicemen.

Lieutenant Ted Stewart (1893-1972)



Edmund William “Ted” Stewart was born in Melbourne on 15 July 1893. Gunner Stewart sailed with his draft of 1 Field Battery reinforcements on HMAT Argyllshire from Sydney to Egypt on 10 April 1915. His brigade saw action on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, in 1915, supporting the British 29th Division around Cape Helles from May and then the Australian Second Division around Anzac Cove from October until the force was withdrawn back to Egypt. From mid-1916, his brigade supported the 1st Division on the Western Front in Europe until the end of the war. On repatriation, Stewart settled in Hunters Hill, working in the family stationery supply business.

When World War 2 broke out, Stewart again volunteered for service but this time in the Royal Australian Engineers. He enlisted at Victoria Barracks, Paddington, on 22 September 1941. He was aged 48 at that time so he declared his date of birth to be 15 July 1901, putting his age back eight years and making him eligible for overseas service. He served with 12 Water Transport Operating Company in New Guinea, in the Salamaua area and the Morobe coast. He was commissioned in the field and reached the rank of lieutenant. He was discharged on 17 October 1945.

After the war, he and his wife, Beryl, and daughters, Mollie and Barbara, lived at 7 Toocooya Road, Hunters Hill. He was a long time member – over 40 years - and trustee of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch. He died, aged 79, in 1972. A painting of him (see above) is in Hunters Hill Historical Society’s Museum at Hunters Hill Town Hall, Alexandra Street.

Lieutenant Roy Stuckey (1900-1985)

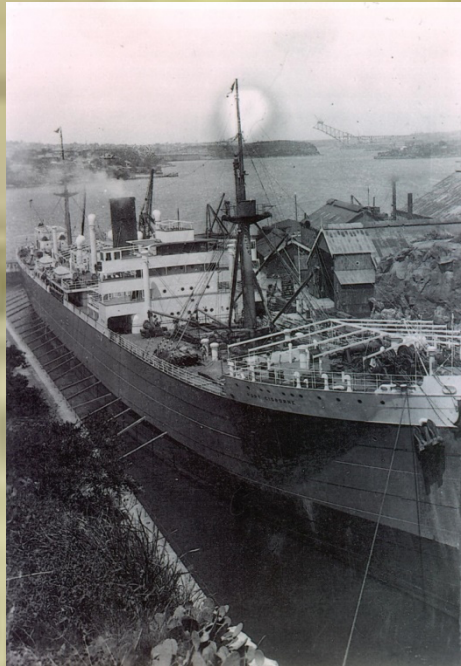


Roy Darrell Stuckey OBE was born in Camden on 3 May 1900. On 30 October 1916, he enlisted with the AIF by overstating his age. On 10 February 1917 he embarked on HMAS Osterley from Sydney for Plymouth, England. He served as a driver with the 4th Field Company Engineers, in France. On 26 June 1918, he was wounded by shellfire at Villers-Bretonneaux. After being discharged from the army on 4 May 1919, he first worked as a junior partner in his brother’s bakery at Camden during which he successfully studied to obtain a local government qualification. In 1935, he moved to Hunters Hill after being

appointed Town Clerk, a position he held for 32 years. During 1939-1941, he served with the 18th and 35th Battalions, Citizen Military Forces (CMF), attaining the rank of lieutenant. He was a chief warden of the Hunters Hill National Emergency Services unit in 1943. In 1959, he received an Order of the British Empire award. On his retirement, Hunters Hill Council conferred on him the freedom of the municipality. He died in 1985, aged 85.

HOME FRONT

Shipbuilding and Ship Repair



For more than 50 years from 1901, Mort's Dock and Engineering Company operated Woolwich Dock. During the two World Wars, the dock was filled with passenger vessels being converted to troopships, as well as damaged ships that needed repairing. After World War 2, the dock lay idle until the Army purchased it in 1963 for its water-based transport operations. It is now a commercial dock for yachts.

War Funds



Fund raising event, Hunters Hill

After the outbreak of war, a War Fund Committee was formed in Hunters Hill to ensure monetary contributions and comforts to the many war funds and patriotic activities. Meetings of the committee were held at least once per week. The efforts to raise money included concerts, carnivals, sporting and swimming meetings, bazaars, socials, auctions and plants sales (sweet peas were grown on the nature strip in Passy Avenue), welcome home parties and farewells.



A Grand Patriotic Carnival was held at Avenue Picnic Grounds – now the site of Hunters Hill High School – on 31 October 1914 as well as Grand Patriotic Concerts at Hunters Hill Town Hall on 6 October 1914 and 14 April 1915. The ever-increasing Honour Roll was printed in each concert program, giving the names of those who had answered their country's call. A total of 19,000 pounds was raised and distributed; a significant amount at that time. Over 4,000 pounds went to the Australia Day Fund, over 2,000 pounds went to the Belgian Fund, 1,700 pounds to the YMCA Fund, 650 pounds to the Chamber of Commerce Fund and substantial contributions to a variety of

other funds, including the War Chest, France's Day, Italian Red Cross Day, Homes Day and Sheepskin Funds, which provided warm clothing for soldiers in the trenches.

Hunters Hill was also to the fore in raising war loans and in war savings and headed other municipalities in contributions per head of population. The quota allotted to the municipality was reached before any other local government area in Australia. The Federal Government recognised the achievement with the presentation of a Banner and a metal Mural Tablet.

William Windeyer (1871-1943)

William Archibald Windeyer MBE was born in Sydney on 9 April 1871. He was the second son of Sir William and Lady Windeyer. He was a member of a well-known legal family and was a senior member of the firm of Windeyer and Co and had been a solicitor and notary public since 1896. He and his family lived at the house he had built, *Wurley*, 8 Passy Avenue, Hunters Hill. He was elected to Hunter's Hill Council in 1904 and served for 23 years. He was Mayor from 1915-1924. He was a driving force in local contributions made to the war effort and the period of rehabilitation after World War 1. He was honorary secretary for a time of the Hunters Hill War Fund Committee. For this and his other voluntary work, he was honoured with an MBE in 1920. His work on behalf of returned servicemen was recognised in 1936 by the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League of Australia which presented him with a Certificate, the highest honour it could confer. Two of his sons, Victor Windeyer and Henry Windeyer, served in World War 2. Henry Windeyer died from his wounds in 1941.



Herbert Lysaght (1862-1940)

Herbert Royce Lysaght was born on 15 December 1862 at Clifton, near Bristol, England. He was the son of Thomas Royce and Emily Lysaght. He emigrated to Australia in 1883 where he worked for the Commercial Banking Company at branches in NSW. In 1899, he resigned from the bank and became a director of his uncle, John Lysaght's galvanised iron manufacturing company, becoming chairman and managing director of the expanding firm in 1918. From 1903 to around the start of World War 2, he and his family lived at *Glentworth*, 5 Ady Street, Hunters Hill. During World War 1, Lysaght was a member of the executive of the Australian Comforts Fund, raising money and providing practical assistance to service men and women. For this, he was awarded the OBE in October 1920. Apart from his own company, Lysaght, a pioneer of Australia's iron and steel industry, held other directorships including that of Broken Hill Proprietary, Commonwealth Rolling Mills, Australian Bank of Commerce, Perpetual Trustee, Royal Insurance, Anthony Hordern and Sydney Hospital. He died suddenly at his Darling Point home on 28 June 1940. His son, Douglas Lysaght, served in World War 1.



Joseph Brown

Joseph Hector Brown was born and raised in Hunters Hill. He was one of 12 children of James and Clara Brown, *Pitsmoor*, corner of Ryde Road and Martin Street, Hunters Hill. James Brown was an alderman for several years and Mayor on Hunters Hill Council (1896) and a deacon of Hunters Hill Congregational Church. Joseph left Australia with the AIF in early 1917 and a few months later, in Egypt, was appointed Assistant Commissioner of the Australian Comforts Fund in France. On 11 February 1918, he was assigned the rank of honorary captain. In 1919, he was awarded an MBE in recognition of his work. His commendation read:

"His business ability and organising capacity have been of exceptional benefit to the troops in his care and to his colleagues in the service".

After returning to Australia, he lived in Gordon where he later became an alderman on Kuring-gai Council and Mayor in 1947. His brother, Arnold Brown, served with distinction in both World Wars 1 and 2.



Red Cross

The Hunters Hill branch of the Red Cross, like other branches across the country, worked to provide hospital comforts and clothing for sick and wounded soldiers.



In addition, a convalescent home for returning soldiers was established at Woolwich; one of 14 set up in NSW. The house, *Reinga*, 55-57 The Point Road, Woolwich, had been loaned by the owners, Patrick O'Brien and his wife. It was first offered to the military authorities. However, because the authorities were not able to make immediate use of the property, the O'Briens offered their



home to the Red Cross for the duration of the war. It was handed over fully furnished and equipped, including a billiards room, for the reception of up to 30 soldiers. The four local Red Cross branches, Woolwich, Hunters Hill, Longueville and Northwood, undertook to run the home by voluntary aid. This covered daily cooking and all domestic duties as well as nursing. These branches supplied the necessary linen and other household items that were required. As well, the women branch members attended lectures on first aid and home nursing to be fully prepared. The convalescent home was officially opened by the founder of the Australian Red Cross, Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, on Saturday 13 November 1913. As a goodwill gesture, the soldiers were given free passage on local ferries during their stay.

Julius and Elizabeth Rosenfeld

Julius Rosenfeld, *Domov*, 14 The Point Road, Woolwich, immigrated to Australia from Czechoslovakia in 1900 and was naturalised in 1913. He was a leading timber merchant across Australia and New Zealand. The wealth and generosity of Rosenfeld and his wife, Elizabeth, are reflected in their donations to the war loans campaign of August 1918 which alone amounted to over \$13,000 or 60 years' basic wage.



Domov

World War 2 (1939-1945)

The start of World War 2 again saw a large number of men and women from Hunters Hill volunteering for military service. More than 40 from the municipality died during the conflict. After the Japanese entry into the war in 1941 voluntary service was changed to compulsory service.



THOSE WHO SERVED

Private Stanley Gibbs (1909-1991)



Stanley Frederick Gibbs GC was born in Hunters Hill on 2 January 1909. After school, he worked for the Sydney-based Gas Light Company. On 9 February 1942, he enlisted in the Second AIF at Paddington. Allocated to the 35th Battalion as a private, he served with the Army until his discharge on 28 December 1944, at which time he returned to his job with the Gas Light Company. Before war service, on 3 January 1927, he was in a launch at Port Hacking when he noticed a youth, apparently drowning. When he went to his aid, he noticed the youth was being attacked by a shark. He immediately dived into the water and, by kicking and punching the shark, managed to free the youth from its jaws and rescue him. For his bravery, he was awarded the Albert Medal, the highest gallantry award made to civilians at that time. Later, the Albert Medal was converted to the George Cross. He and four other Australian recipients received their new insignia from Queen Elizabeth 2 at an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace, London, on 12 July 1972. He died, aged 82, in Sydney on 3 March 1991.



George Cross

Leading Aircraftsman Dick Grant (1924-2009)



Richmond Fraser "Dick" Grant was born in Auburn in 1924. The family moved to Hunters Hill in 1926. His father built a home in Toocooya Road. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and served as boat crew in a marine section detachment in Milne Bay, New Guinea, during World War 2. The marine section carried out rescues of aircraft crew and boat crews and also transported men and materiel around the coast. After the war, he joined the Army Reserve, gained a commission and rose to the rank of captain. He was commanding officer of Training Ship Warrego, a sea cadet unit based initially at Onions Point then Spectacle Island in Sydney Harbour. He died, aged 85, in Hunters Hill in 2009. He was the father of Ian Grant, Vice President of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch, and Robin who is a trustee of the sub-Branch.

Captain Nora Heysen (1911-2003)



The fourth child of the distinguished landscape painter Sir Hans Heysen of Adelaide, Nora Heysen AM was born in Hahndorf, South Australia, in 1911. She was a notable portrait and still life artist. She was the first woman to win the Archibald Prize (1938) for portraiture. She was also the first woman to become an Australian war artist. Commissioned at the rank of captain into the Women's Army Service in 1943, Heysen completed over 170 works of art during her wartime career. She was discharged in 1946. She spent seven months in New Guinea and then returned to Australia suffering from dermatitis. Back in Australia she depicted the activities of army medical units at Sydney Hospital. In May 1945 she went to Queensland to capture in paintings the work of RAAF nursing sisters serving on medical evacuation flights. While in New Guinea she met Dr Robert Black whom she married in 1953. They moved to *The Chalet*, 2 Yerton Street, Hunters Hill, the following year. She separated from Black in 1972 but remained in Hunters Hill until her death. She was aged 92. Heysen played an active part in the Hunters Hill Art Society. She was awarded the Australia Medal in 1998. There is a bronze bust of her in the front courtyard of the Cuneo Building at 35 Alexandra Street, Hunters Hill. This is the place where Heysen frequently had a morning coffee at a nearby café.

Sister Marian High (1908-?)

Born in Cockermouth, England, on 9 July 1908, Marian High gave her home address as Hunters Hill when she enlisted in the "Emergency Unit" section of the Army Women's Service on 24 December 1940. Her next of kin was given as Herbert High. On 20 February 1941 she transferred with the rank of lieutenant to the Army Nursing Service. On 24 April 1941, she was accidentally injured in Darwin and had her right arm amputated. She was married in All Saints' Anglican Church, Hunters Hill, on 10 May 1943 and became Mrs AS Ansell. This was three days after she gained her diploma in occupational therapy. On 19 October 1943, she was appointed officer in charge of the occupational therapy department at 103 Australian General Hospital, Baulkham Hills. She was discharged from war service for medical reasons in 1944.



Chief Petty Officer Frank LARBALESTIER (1925-2017)



Francis John George “Frank” LARBALESTIER was born in Plymouth, UK, on 19 July 1925. After serving in the sea scouts, he enlisted in the Royal Navy (RN) in September 1941 for an initial 12 years which was later extended. After a four-year electrical apprenticeship in the Fleet Air Arm, he graduated in 1944 as an artificer with the rank of leading air fitter. He was posted to His Majesty’s Ship (HMS) Beaulieu, in July 1945 and promoted to petty officer. Just as his ship was about to set out for the Pacific Theatre of War, the war ended. He then had postings in Singapore and back in the UK. Following Australia’s purchase of a British aircraft carrier (HMS Terrible later renamed His Majesty’s Australian Ship, Sydney), he was sent to Australia as part of a RN training team. In December 1948, he was posted to a training workshop at the Royal Australian Navy’s (RAN) air station, HMAS Albatross, at Nowra. Just before being sent back to the UK, he married Shirley Daly, whom he met in Sydney, in November 1950. He later returned to Australia with his wife and young family to take up a role as an instructor to the RAN at HMAS Cerberus, Victoria, in 1955. He retired with the rank of chief petty officer from the RN, while posted at HMAS Albatross again, in 1957 after 16 years’ service. In 1959, he enlisted in the RAN Reserves as a sub lieutenant and retired as a lieutenant commander in 1970. In civilian life, he was employed as a mathematics teacher with the NSW Department of Education for 26 years. He was President of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch from 1995 to 1998 and from 2001 to 2010. He died, aged 92, on 5 December 2017.

Corporal WENTY MANN (1920-1994)

Samuel Wentworth “Wenty” Mann was born in Melbourne in 1920. He joined the CMF in 1939, volunteering for air crew in 1941. He enlisted in the RAAF on 31 January 1942. After training as an air gunner at the Wireless Air Gunners School at Parkes, he was posted to Canada for a year to the Royal Canadian Air Force Bombing and Gunnery School in Manitoba. He returned to Australia in late 1943. After a brief period in Adelaide, he was posted to 102 and 107 Fighter Control Units before being sent to 101 Fighter Squadron Defence Headquarters RAAF in Port Moresby, New Guinea, until the end of the war. He attained the rank of corporal. He was discharged on 7 December 1945.



After the war, he qualified as a psychologist and worked in the Children’s Court in Victoria and later with Sydney Grammar School, a position he held for 23 years until his retirement. Mann and his wife, Dorothy, moved to Hunters Hill in 1954 where they raised two

daughters, Melissa and Belinda. Belinda Allen is a committee member of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch where her father was President from 1984 to 1986. Mann died in 1994, aged 74.

Squadron Leader Jim McHale (1915-1988)



Francis James “Jim” McHale DFC was born in Woollahra in 1915. He enlisted in the RAAF as an aircrew trainee in 1940. After completing his initial training in Australia, then flight training in Rhodesia, he was posted to the UK in April, 1941. He spent a short time with RAF 590 and 279 Squadrons operating over the North Sea against German U-boats and against enemy shipping along the Dutch coast.

Commissioned as a flying officer in August 1941, McHale and his crew were posted to 459 Squadron Middle East in June 1942. He completed his first tour of operations flying Hudson aircraft from Gianacelis, near Alexandria, Egypt. After a stint of instructing at an Officer Training Unit in Egypt, he re-joined 459 Squadron for his second tour, during which he was promoted to squadron leader. During his two tours with 459 Squadron he took part in patrols and attacks against enemy shipping along the North African coast. Also, he led bombing sorties against targets in Greece including Crete and the Dodecanese Islands of Kos and Leros. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross towards the end of his second tour of operations in 1945. In December 1946, he married Peggie Wackett (nee Stephenson). They moved to Hunters Hill in 1947 and lived at *Villa Floridiana*, Sea Street. When his wife died, he moved to 10 Moorefield Avenue, then to 19 Mark Street. After the war, McHale sought to maintain the comradeship that was built up in the two sister 459 and 454 squadrons during the conflict. He was President of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch 1980-1981 and Chairman of the Social Committee and a long time committee member. He died aged 73 in 1988. His daughter, Julie Parsons, is a member of the Committee of the Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch.

Lieutenant Commander Howard Reid (1908-1999)

Howard Dudley Reid GM and Bar was born in Wellington, New Zealand, in 1908 and arrived in Sydney in 1940. He joined the RAN's Volunteer Reserve and, during World War 2, served overseas with the RN. He commanded a Flower-class corvette, HMS Spirea, then joined the British Admiralty's Rendering Mines Safe squad clearing unexploded bombs. He was twice awarded for “courage, initiative and devotion to duty”. The first was the George Medal for mine disposal operations in the UK between December 1940 and January 1941. The second was a bar to his GM during mine disposal in Glasgow, Scotland, in August 1941. Reid was discharged in 1946. He was a long-time member of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch and President in 1964-65. He lived at 2 The Point Road, Woolwich and then 15 Vine Street, Hunters Hill, before retiring to a country property near Moree, NSW. He died in 1999, aged 91.

Flight Lieutenant John Roberts (1915-?)



Born in Marrickville on 24 July 1915, John Parker Roberts DFC was one of two sons of Percy and Mabel Roberts, 4 McBride Avenue, Hunters Hill. At the time of his enlistment in Sydney on 13 September 1941 in the RAAF, he gave his home address as Greenwich. He was aircraft captain of Number 10 Squadron (Sunderland) with coastal command, based at RAF Station Mount Batten, Plymouth, England. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross after the plane he was piloting sank an enemy submarine in 1944. He was discharged from his military service on 3 July 1945. His brother, Flying Officer Guy Roberts, also served in the RAAF and was killed during a bombing raid in Italy in 1944.

Lieutenant Morris West (1916-1999)

The novelist and playwright Morris Langlo West, Officer in the Order of Australia, worked at the Hunters Hill Signal Centre (now Sir Moses Montefiore Home, Boronia Park) during World War 2. Born in St Kilda, Victoria, on 26 April 1916, he enlisted in the Army in April 1941. He was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Intelligence Division and worked as a cipher officer, being eventually posted to the Hunters Hill Signal Centre in 1944. He was seconded to work for former Australian Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, for a time. His first published novel, *Moon in My Pocket*, came out in 1945 using the pseudonym "Julian Morris". He wrote it while in the services. His books were published in 27 languages and sold more than 60 million copies worldwide. He died on 9 October 1999 in Clareville. He was aged 83.



Brigadier Vic Windeyer (1900-1987)



The son of solicitor William Archibald Windeyer (Hunters Hill Mayor and alderman) and his wife, Ruby, William John Victor "Vic" Windeyer KBE, CB, DSO and Bar, ED, QC, was born in Hunters Hill in 1900. At Sydney Grammar School, he became a cadet officer in the school's cadet corps. The day after his 18th birthday, he enlisted in the AIF. However the Armistice was declared before he could be sent overseas. In 1919, while studying law at Sydney University, he joined the Scouts CMF. He was commissioned in 1922 and rose through the officer ranks. In 1937 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and was appointed commanding officer of the renamed Sydney University Regiment. When World War 2 broke out, Windeyer

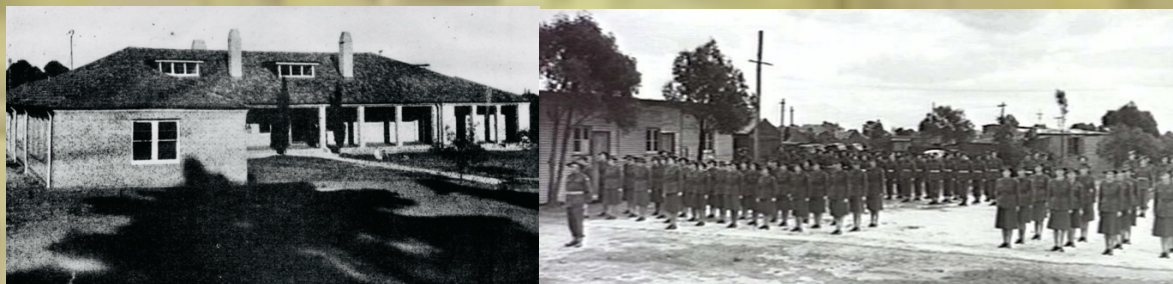
applied for a commission. He was first refused on medical grounds but in May 1940 was appointed a major. Three months later, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and sent to command the 2/48th Battalion. He led his unit at the Siege of Tobruk, Libya, during the North Africa Campaign, for which he received the Distinguished Service Order. In 1942, he was promoted temporary brigadier and assumed command of the 20th Brigade and led it in to battle at El Alamein, Egypt, for which he earned a Bar to his DSO. In 1943-1944, he commanded his brigade in New Guinea and Borneo. In 1944, he was created a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.



After the war, Windeyer resumed his CMF service. In 1951, he was promoted to major general and spent three years as commander of the 2nd Division and CMF representative of the Military Board. After the war he also resumed his career as a barrister. In 1958, he was appointed a Justice of the High Court of Australia and received the award of Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE). He retired from the High Court in 1971. He died at the age of 87 in 1987. He was the older brother of Frank Windeyer who was killed at Tobruk, Libya.

HOME FRONT

Hunters Hill Signal Centre



The Hunters Hill Signal Centre "*Boronia*" was located on the Montefiore Home site, 120 High Street, Boronia Park. It was an unlikely site for a military establishment, with no main roads and no railway nearby, which is probably the very reason for its selection.

In 1942, the Army took over the Sir Moses Montefiore Home, which had been opened for 26 Jewish residents in 1939. The adjacent Isabella Lazarus home for six orphaned children was also requisitioned.

This main signal and cipher centre was established with direct morse links to military headquarters in St Lucia, Brisbane, and to military establishments across NSW - Bathurst, Burwood, "Burnside", Jesmond House Liverpool, Newcastle - Rutherford Camp, Middle Head, Mount Keira, New Lambton and Victoria Barracks, Sydney. There was also a telephone-trunk line switching facility to Victoria Barracks and a teleprinter service to Brisbane. For a time, the author Morris West was stationed there.



Within the grounds were built two blast-proof underground concrete bunkers - one was to house an emergency diesel generator and the other contained signalling equipment. One, at least, still exists today, although overgrown and hazardous to access.



The centre was also the headquarters of 2 Carrier Pigeon Section with 522 carrier pigeons. Within the Section there were mobile lofts and lofts maintained by the Voluntary Defence Corps. Carrier pigeons were a valuable means of communication as they were secure and relatively fast. They saved on personnel,

vehicles and fuel. By mid-1945 the centre had been deactivated and approval was given to the Army to remove all the military items, including structures, and to restore the site to the Montefiore owners.

Hunters Hill Supply Depot

Before Hunters Hill High School was built, the RAAF took over the site in Reiby Road about 1941 and used it as a supply depot for radar equipment for the whole of the Pacific region. They spent over 20,000 pounds on improvements to the property. Four buildings were erected. The structures, built of galvanised iron, were all demolished when the school was constructed in the 1950s.

Figtree Studios

A link with World War 2 was established after Mastercraft Film Corporation bought the site of the old Avenue Pleasure Grounds in Reiby Road, Hunters Hill, in 1935 to establish film studios in what is now occupied by Hunters Hill High School. Called Figtree Studios, one of the few movies shot there was by Argosy Films called *The Power and the Glory*. It was an Australian war aviation film featuring an early screen performance by the Australian actor, Peter Finch. It was about a Czech scientist who escaped from the Nazis to live in Australia. Filming commenced in 1940. Shooting took place at Figtree Studios with additional scenes shot at Camden. It was made with the cooperation of the RAAF.



Distribution was facilitated through MGM, the first time the American company had handled an Australian feature film. The movie received generally positive reviews. The movie was re-released in 1952 as *The Invaders*. Mastercraft Film Corporation went into liquidation shortly after the movie was completed. The RAAF subsequently took over the site to assist the war effort.

Fund Raising

The outbreak of war saw reserved occupations created, rationing introduced and security regulations tightened. As in World War 1, residents were organised into a branch of the Australian Comforts Fund with former Mayor William Windeyer MBE (1871-1943) as first honorary secretary. The sum of 8,731 pounds was raised for the fund, as well as many thousands of pounds for other funds. The Comforts Fund amount was exceeded by only three other local government areas. War Loans were also well supported.

Hunters Hill played its part in national emergency services, or civil defence. In May 1943, the local civil defence unit, including an air raid precaution squad, won in open competition the NSW championship and the Minister's Pennant.

In December 1945, the municipality set up an organisation to send food parcels to Britain which was severely affected by post-war rationing. Food parcels to the value of over 2000 pounds were dispatched. For its efforts, the municipality received a presentation plaque from the city of Hull, which was the most severely blitzed British city outside of London during the war with Nazi bombing destroying or damaging 95 per cent of its housing.

As in World War 1, the Red Cross Society worked industriously with branches at Hunters Hill, Boronia Park, Gladesville and Huntleys Point.



Korean War (1950-1953)

One Hunters Hill resident is known to have died in the Korean War. The conflict started in June 1950 when North Korean Forces invaded South Korea. Although initially successful, the Chinese and Soviet- backed North Koreans were pushed back by a combined United Nations force, including Australia, to what became known as the ceasefire line.



THOSE WHO SERVED

Squadron Leader Doug Shannon (1929-2013)



Douglas “Doug” Shannon was born in Sydney’s eastern suburbs in 1929 but grew up in Hunters Hill. He joined 77 Squadron RAAF as a career officer. In 1954, he flew Gloster Meteors in Korea along the demarcation zone during which his aircraft came under fire. On his return to Australia, squadron leader Shannon was posted to Woomera Rocket Range, SA, where he flew a wide variety of aircraft from Auster aerial observation post light aircraft to Vulcan bombers. After the RAAF, he finished his flying career as a Qantas pilot. He lived with his wife, Gay, in Hunters Hill. He died in 2013, aged 84.

Vietnam War (1962-1975)

A number of local men and women served with the Australian forces during the Vietnam War. A new National Service Act of 1964 required 20-year-olds, selected by a ballot of birthdays, to serve two years in regular army units. In May 1965, the Defence Act was amended to provide that these conscripts could also be required to serve overseas.



THOSE WHO SERVED

Commander Jim Board (1928-)

James “Jim” Board was born in Eastwood on 27 December 1928. As an officer in the RAN, he made seven trips to Vietnam aboard HMAS Sydney, an aircraft carrier converted to a fast troop transport, in 1971-1972. On his last voyage in 1972, HMAS Sydney withdrew the last remaining Australian soldiers from Vietnam. He is a member of the Committee of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch.

Commander Rob Everett (1941-)



Robert “Rob” Tabor Everett was born in Bunbury, WA, in 1941. He joined the RAN in 1960 as a recruit communications sailor and achieved the rank of petty officer before being selected for officer training in the UK in 1968. In 1972 he was a lieutenant serving in HMAS Vampire, a Daring class destroyer, as the ship’s communication officer and the ship’s diving officer. In November 1972, HMAS Vampire was deployed as escort for HMAS Sydney, an aircraft carrier converted to a fast troop transport, which was making the last of her 25 voyages

to Vung Tau, Vietnam, delivering service personnel, goods and equipment. Everett retired from the Navy in 1981.

After spending 20 years with the Maritime Services Board, now part of Transport NSW, he joined Sydney Heritage Fleet, a volunteer organisation for the restoration of old vessels. He is vice commodore of the Fleet and executive master of Lady Hopetoun, a 1902 Edwardian steam launch. He lives in Hunters Hill and is a committee member of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch.

Chief Petty Officer Ian Hansen (1948-)

Ian Hansen was born in Bordertown, SA, in 1948. At the age of 15, he joined the RAN and served for 12 years reaching the rank of chief petty officer. He also trained as a shipwright and ship’s diver. He was a marksman in weapon training. He joined HMAS Sydney in June 1967 and completed five trips to Vietnam on her. HMAS Sydney was a flagship aircraft carrier in the 1950s which was used as a Fast Troop Transport for Vietnam. Hansen used his time at sea to teach himself oil painting and is now



recognised as one of the world’s foremost marine artists. He lives with his wife, Kaylene, in Alexandra Street, Hunters Hill. He is a wooden boat sailor and member of the committee of the Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch.

Gunner Roger O'Dwyer (1947-)



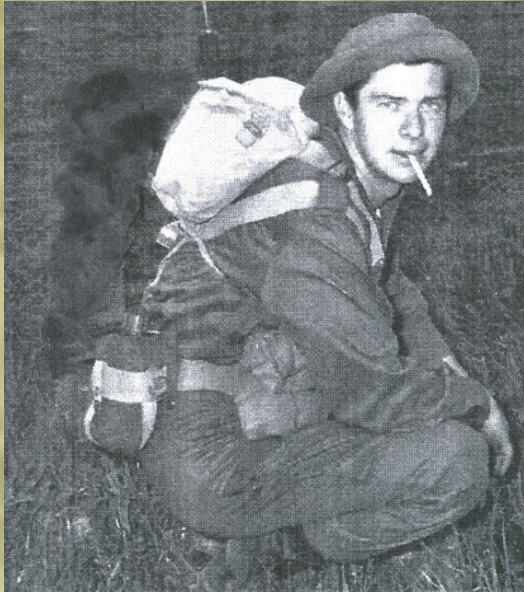
Roger Michael O'Dwyer was born on 10 December 1947. He attended St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, as a boarder from Boggabri from 1961 to 1965. He enlisted for National Service at Singleton on 5 May 1968. After recruit and corps training for five months, he completed one year and seven months as a command post operator, with the rank of gunner, with Artillery Unit 105 Field Battery, one year and one day of which were spent outside Australia. On 3 February 1969, 105 Battery, known as the Tigers, flew from Brisbane to Saigon, Vietnam, via Singapore, and then on to Nui Dat. During his time in Vietnam, his field battery occupied 31 different fire support bases. He returned to Australia on 4 February 1970 and was discharged in Sydney on 30 April 1970. He was awarded the Vietnam Medal and the Vietnamese Campaign Medal, the Australian Active Service Medal with clasp Vietnam, the Returned from Active Service Badge, and the Anniversary of National Service Medal 1951-1972. He owned and operated a real estate agency in Alexandra Street, Hunters Hill, from 1976 to 2011. He is a trustee and former secretary of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch.

Warrant Officer Ken Shannon (1945-2014)



Kenneth "Ken" J Shannon was born in Sydney on 6 December 1945. He was conscripted for National Service in September 1966. After training at Singleton, he was posted to the 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment at Terendak, Malaysia. He returned to Australia in 1967 and transferred to the Royal Australian Engineers. He joined 32 Small Ships Squadron and served on the Army ship, John Monash, and in Vietnam on the landing ship, Clive Steele. He was promoted to sergeant in 1971 and posted to 30 Terminal Squadron Detachment at Vung Tau where he was actively involved in the withdrawal of Australian Forces. He served 456 days in Vietnam. He returned to Sydney as an instructor at the HQ Water Transport Squadron at Georges Heights. On promotion to warrant officer in 1976, he was posted to Perth Water Transport Company as 2IC, then transferred back to Sydney to 10 Terminal Regiment at Woolwich in 1979. In 1981, he was posted as an exchange instructor at the US Army Transportation School at Fort Eustis, Virginia. After two years he returned to the Army Maritime School, before being posted to Army Detachment HMAS Tobruk, as the ship sergeant major. Shannon retired in 1987 after 21 years' service. His awards include the Vietnam Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal, Defence Force Service Medal with Clasp, National Medal and Returned from Active Service Badge. He started and operated his own business for 15 years. He was President of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch 1998 to 1999. He died in 2014, aged 69.

Gunner John Stevens (1949-)



Born on 22 March 1949 in Sydney, John Stevens was conscripted for national service on 9 July 1969. After recruit and corps training for five months at Kapooka, Wagga Wagga and North Head, he served as a command post (field) operator. He spent 364 days in Vietnam. He was discharged from the army, having completed two years' service, on 8 July 1971. He holds the Australian Active Service medal, the Australian Defence medal, the Vietnam medal, the Vietnamese Campaign Medal and the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 medal. He grew up in Hunters Hill and is the third generation to live in the municipality. He has

been treasurer of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch since 2010.

Major Rod Stewart (1937-)

Roderick "Rod" Wilson Stewart was born in Sydney in 1937. After being raised in country NSW, he entered the Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon in 1955 and graduated in 1958 into the Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) as a career soldier. After completing a diploma in civil engineering at RMIT University, he was posted to a construction squadron that was deployed in 1962 to Wewak, New Guinea, to build roads. After two years in Papua New Guinea, he was posted to a Field Squadron in Sydney. However, a war had broken out between Indonesia and Malaysia, called Konfrontasi, in Bahasa Melayu. With Australia supporting Malaysia, its Commonwealth partner, Stewart's unit was deployed in 1964 for a year in Sabah. The unit's task was to continue to build a road from the capital of the Interior Residency, Keningau, towards the border at Sepulot. Halfway through the Sabah tour, he was deployed to Vietnam with two other Australian officers from Malaysia. They were briefly assigned to the US Military Assistance Command Vietnam as advisors in the Mekong Delta, south of Saigon. On return from Sabah, Stewart was posted to the HQ of the engineer-in-chief in Canberra, then to RMC Duntroon as the instructor for military engineering. After three years, he joined CRA, now Rio Tinto. He lives with his wife of 59 years, Dellane, in Huntleys Cove. He was President of Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch in 2015-2017 and remains a committee member.



Army Operations in Woolwich Dock

Mort's Dock, Woolwich



Space for ships at the Army Transportation Training Centre at Chowder Bay was at a premium in 1963 so it was resolved that, as negotiations for the purchase of Mort's Dock, Woolwich, were nearly complete, 4 Water Transport Troop would relocate there. Two Lysaght huts were built on the raised ground behind the foundry building. A small section of the foundry became office space. The Troop was later renamed 35 Water Transport Squadron.

The Army at that time was restricted by sub-standard road and rail facilities in moving the Centurion tanks of the 1st Armoured Regiment from their base in Puckapunyal, Victoria. To overcome this, the Army purchased four ex-World War 2 US Navy Medium Landing Ships to be crewed and operated by soldiers of the Transportation Service of the RAE. The RAN had no interest in this type of administrative sealift so the Army, with a long history of small ship and landing craft operations, raised 32 Small Ship Squadron, RAE, in 1959. This unit was co-located with 35 Water Transport Squadron at Woolwich. The vessels were named after prominent Australian generals – Harry Chauvel, Brudenell White, Vernon Sturdee and Clive Steele.

The squadron also operated the largest ship to have been operated by the Australian Army; the 1400 tonne, 71-metre long coastal cargo vessel, John Monash, which was purchased from Adelaide Steamship Company. All ships spent considerable time operating in Papua New Guinea waters during the 1960s, assisting in 'Nation Building' prior to that country's independence. In 1964, Harry Chauvel and Vernon Sturdee were deployed to Borneo to provide logistical support to the Australian Army during the Indonesian Confrontation. From 1966 to 1971, all ships served in Vietnam throughout the period of Australian military involvement in the Vietnam War.

After the withdrawal of Australian forces from Vietnam, the Army decided that, due to the age of the vessels and maintenance difficulties, the ships would be disposed of and 32 Small Ship Squadron was subsequently disbanded in 1971



Entertainment

During the Vietnam War, Australian entertainers volunteered to give morale-boosting concerts to Australian troops in the war zone. Some 50 troupes performed there under the sponsorship of the Australian Government.

Col Joye (1937-)

Rock singer-songwriter and musical entrepreneur, Colin Frederick Jacobsen AM was born on 13 April 1937. He is better known by his stage name, Col Joye. He lives at Woolwich. He became nationally famous in the 1960s for a string of singles hits. He was among Australian entertainers who staged concerts for Australian troops serving in Vietnam. In August 1966, Joye and his backing group, the Joy Boys, together with 17 year old fellow singer, Little Pattie, were giving a performance at Nui Dat as the Battle of Long Tan began nearby.



Col Joye and Little Patti, Vietnam

Other Conflicts

Afghanistan (1978-present)

THOSE WHO SERVED

Major Damon Hietbrink (1984 -)



Damon Hietbrink was born in Sydney in 1984, growing up in Baulkham Hills. He attended St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, as a boarder. While attending Sydney University, he joined the Regular Army, initially as a member of Sydney University Regiment. In 2008 he graduated from RMC Duntroon. His first posting was to the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (Parachute) as a rifle platoon commander, then the reconnaissance and sniper platoon commander. He was posted to the University of NSW Regiment in 2011 as a training

officer. During this time he settled in the Hunters Hill area with his family. In 2012, he completed selection for Special Forces and was posted to the 2nd Commando Regiment. He served in a variety of roles within the Regiment, including as a platoon commander of high readiness contingency elements as well as executive officer of the Tactical Assault Group – East in support of the Commonwealth Games in 2018. He was posted to RMC Duntroon as staff in 2019 before returning to 2nd Commando Regiment in 2020. His overseas deployments included Afghanistan and Iraq. He was awarded a Commendation for Distinguished Service in 2020 for his performance of duties during his time in Iraq. He joined Hunters Hill RSL and became president of the sub-Branch in 2017. In 2021 he transferred from the Regular Army to the Reserve.



Australian soldiers in Iraq

Regular Service

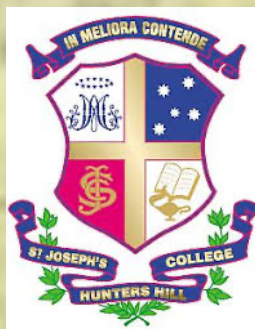
Commando Peter Astridge (1932-)



Hill.

Peter Astridge was born in Sydney in 1940. At the age of 18, he joined 1 Commando, then part of 1 Royal NSW Regiment. He served for eight years in a period of peace for the Australian Defence Force (ADF). He left the Regular Army but remains a member of the Australian Commando Association. Peter has had a long and distinguished career in local government. He was a Hunters Hill councillor for 23 years. He was chair of the Hunters Hill Military Memorabilia Restoration Advisory Committee and a member of the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program. He has been a member of Gladesville RSL sub-Branch since 2012, holding various offices. In 2012, he received an Order of Australia Medal. He also holds the Australian Defence Medal. He lives in Hunters

St Joseph's College



More than 1500 Old Boys from St Joseph College, Hunters Hill, have served their respective countries of birth. As well as what is now known as the ADF, they have seen service in the armed forces of other countries such as New Zealand, the UK and France. In World War 1, 450 Old Boys served with 57 killed and 150 wounded. In World War 2, at least 870 Old Boys were in the Australian forces with 76 killed or dying as a result of injuries received. Before that, a number of Old Boys served in the Boer War (1899-1902). Since World War 2, Old Boys have served in Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Gulf War, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan and in international peace-keeping missions.

Among notable Old Boys who made significant contributions to Australia's war efforts:

Brigadier Sir Eugene Gorman (1891-1973) KBE, MC, QC, military officer and barrister.



Air Marshall Sir John McCauley (1899-1989) KBE, CB, RAAF commander.



St Joseph's College

Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch



Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch was formed in 1928 following a meeting of 12 men on the footpath outside the paper shop then at the corner of Alexandra and Ferry Streets. The date of 16 November is held as the date of inauguration.

The first president was Jock Morgan and the secretary was WJ Callaghan. The sub-Branch used the Memorial Hall in Alexandra Street to hold its meetings. The hall was not originally intended for the RSL as it was dedicated seven years before the sub-Branch was formed. The sub-Branch formally took over the hall as its home under a Trust Deed in 1944.

During the 1930s and the Great Depression, the sub-Branch formed a relief committee to find work for the unemployed and to provide such funds as were available. An arrangement was entered into with Hunter's Hill Council to employ men on local works with the council being reimbursed by the sub-Branch at a rate of 15 shillings per man per day. Funds were contributed by members who also canvassed for donations. The sub-Branch also delivered firewood to the needy.

Membership climbed steadily from about 50 in 1930 to 105 in 1932, then to 211 in 1947. However, by 1983 membership stood at 129 and declined further to 39 in 2011. Today it is around 30. Initially all members had served in the armed forces. However, affiliate membership was introduced in NSW in 2012 and now constitutes a large proportion of members. The sub-Branch has had 12 presidents from 1928 until 1945 and 28 from 1945 to the present day. It is one of the nine members of the Northern Metropolitan Council of RSL NSW, one of 23 such councils in the state.



Hunters Hill sub-Branch committee, 2020: Jim Board (observer); Graeme Sadler (observer); Julie Parsons (observer); Roger O'Dwyer (member); Belinda Allen (welfare and social member); John Stevens (treasurer); Ian Grant (vice president); Ian Hansen (member); Rob Everett (hall manager); Kaye Shannon (secretary); Rod Stewart (member); Major Damon Hietbrink (president).

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This booklet – the third in the series, Hunters Hill Remembers - was compiled and edited by Chris Schofield and Rod Stewart on behalf of Hunters Hill Historical Society and Hunters Hill RSL sub-Branch.



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Rod Stewart

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