

Reconstructing a life from the archives ...

With reference to sources on the First World War

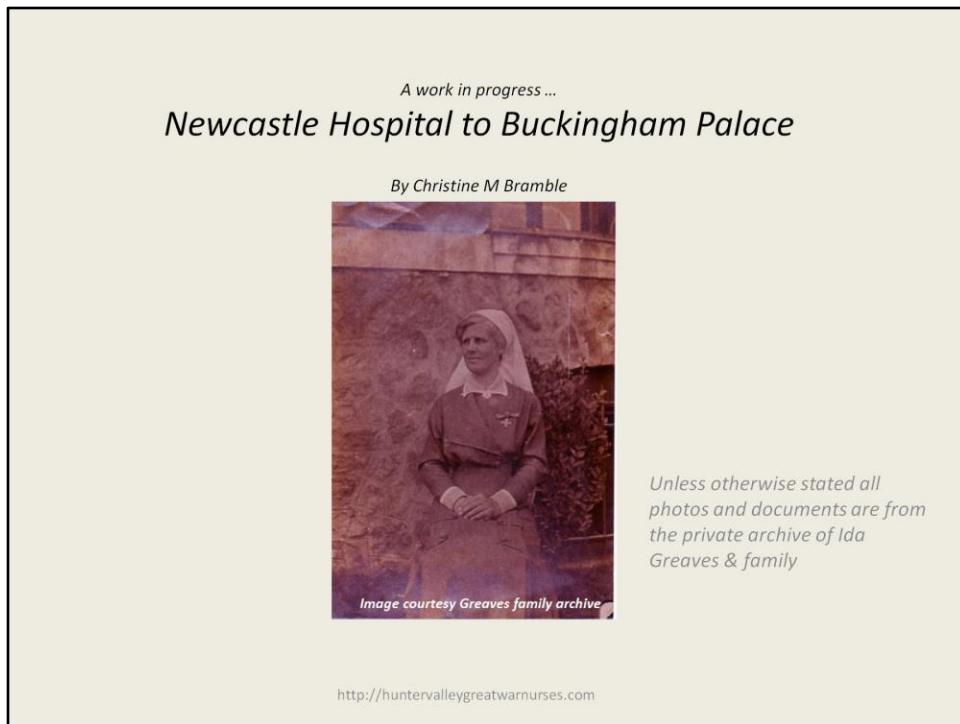
Christine M Bramble

<http://huntermvalleygreatwarheroes.com>

Points for discussion in this session

- *Authenticity of material*
- *Facts versus supposition*
- *Working with a family archive*
- *Planning - identifying the elements of a person's story that will make a reader want to turn the page.*
- *Where you go looking for material on people who served in WW1*

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- How did I come to be working on a my first biography
 - The work has been many years in the making – research for exhibition at Newcastle Regional Museum
 - Graduate Nurses' Assoc – grant to publish my research as "Sisters of the Valley" book, featuring almost 80 women from the HV
 - Led to a website – was contacted by several members of the family, and eventually loaned the Greaves Archive - over 300 items, photos and documents, relating mainly to the life of IMG but also her sister Susie and other family members)
- How did I know that the material I was lent was genuine?
 - It fitted what I had already learnt about Ida Greaves, was coming from several family members not just one, some of whom had the Greaves surname, photos were consistent with what I already knew of her story, the documents were genuine based on my knowledge of WW1 gained from previous research.
 - Was once offered a transcript of diary of "the last person to evacuate ANZAC" – there have been lots of them, might have been genuine but there was little background on which to assess it.



Fort William [Scotland] 18th Aug 1912

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A glimpse at the material ...

One of the albums spans the period 1912 when Ida Greaves was working in London, to 1917 when she was serving at a casualty clearing station, so there is a sharp transition ...

Being a tourist in the UK.



Undated, c.1913 . [Ida as a spectator at Boy Scouts event]

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Social activities, possibly in London.



SS Greta at Cowes Aug[ust] 23rd 1914

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The excitement of preparation to embark for France and the war zone ...



*Sisters' quarters cleaning boots
[St Nazaire France Sept-Oct 1914]*

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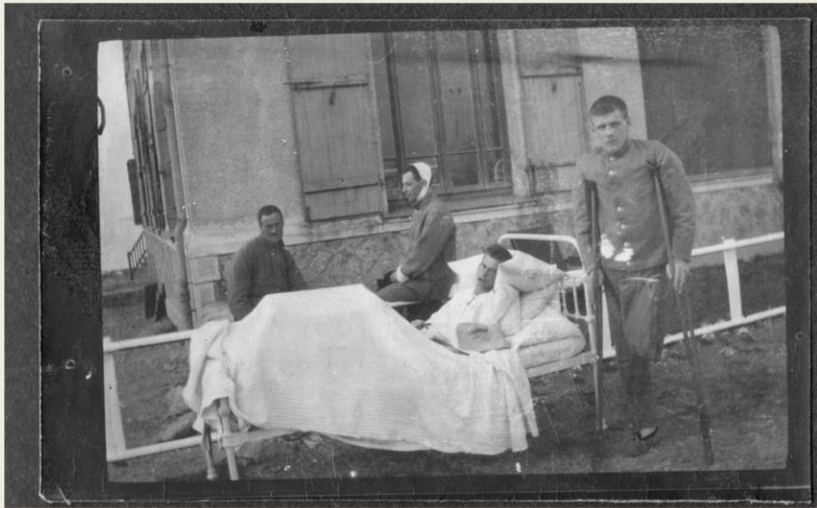
The reality of camp life



*Refugees from Belgium / 28.10.14.
[St Nazaire railway station]*

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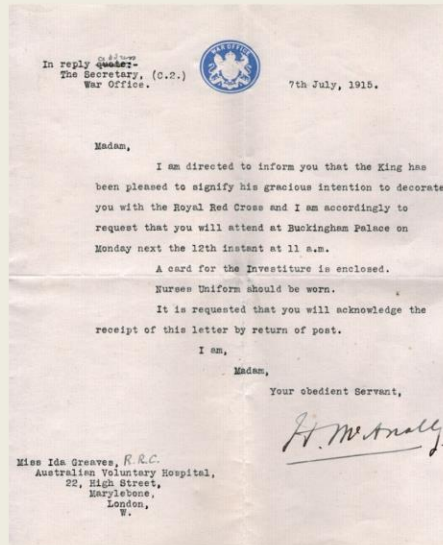
Things seen along the way



Patients
[Australian Voluntary Hospital, France]

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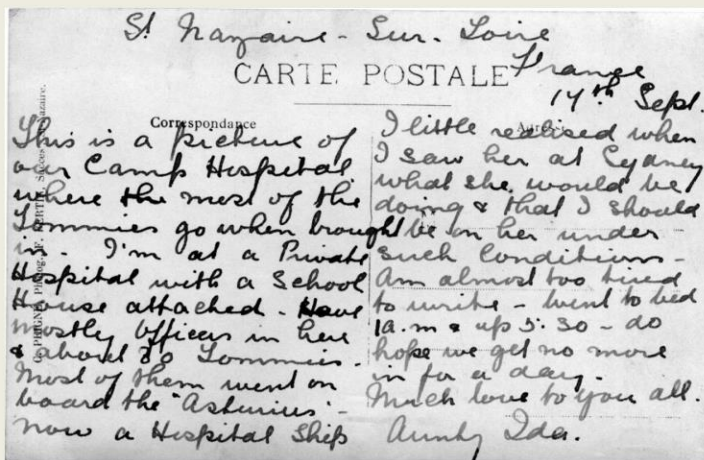
The reality of the damage to soldiers



Letter of invitation to attend investiture at Buckingham Palace

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And some quite unusual documents ...



[Reverse of postcard sent to a niece in September 1914]

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Some correspondence from Ida but tends to be on the back of postcards and is quite brief like this one, gives just a glimpse of what she is doing / thinking

Ida Mary Greaves RRC

1875 Born Newcastle, daughter of John William Greaves accountant & Secretary of Newcastle Gas & Coke Co (grandfather William Greaves was a convict!)

1904 Graduated Newcastle Hospital, accepted as member of Australasian Trained Nurses' Assoc. First appointment as matron of a country hospital.

1910 Arrived London, worked in private nursing until August 1914

1914 Late August, arrived France as matron of the Australian Voluntary Hospital (AVH), tasked with caring for casualties from war with Germany. First colonial unit in the field in Europe.

1915 June, mentioned in despatches

1915 July, awarded Royal Red Cross by King George V at Buckingham Palace

1917 November, mentioned in despatches

1918 March, evacuates casualty clearing station under enemy fire.

1919 Returned to Newcastle. Continued working as a nurse until retirement. Never married.

1954 Died Sydney

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Facts v supposition ...

Some background facts on my subject, Newcastle born Ida Mary Greaves RRC MID, will help to put the archive in context ...

When it comes to piecing together the life of an individual, there are facts that are beyond dispute and there are suppositions the writer can make, but they are not to be confused with facts.

Most of the above can be verified from documents, eg births, marriages & deaths, government gazettes.

Facts by themselves can make for a very boring story - But what do these facts suggest to us, if anything, about the character of my subject?

Year	Date	Event	Source / notes
1910	23 December	IMG arrived London per Orsova	UK, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960 UK
1910-1912		IMG sent postcard with 'good luck' wishes to SEG, addressed to SEG at Pipitea Pah Zara Street – postcard is postmarked Colombo, date illegible.	Family archive, Red folder item 12. Message refers to a stop at Perth, which is not listed as a port of voyage of the Orsova arrived London 23 December 1910 (see above.)
1909-1910		Did IMG have any involvement with the Bush Nursing Scheme before leaving Australia? She would in any case have known of Lady Dudley already through the ANJ.	
1912		IMG Was living in London	Address and date on inside cover of photo album belonging to IMG in family archive, Green Album

A detailed timeline is useful – a way of sorting your notes on a person's life

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*Refugees from Belgium / 28.10.14.
[St Nazaire railway station]*

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Facts v supposition ...

Let's go back to this image. What insight might it give into Ida's values and attitudes? Can we say for certain "this is how she felt or thought in choosing to include it in her album? Only if there is other corroborating evidence. What might that be? One is entitled to build up a picture based on a number of pieces of evidence.

In their own words ...

War is the most horrible thing and I can't think why it should be necessary ... you can't imagine anything so pathetic as they [the wounded] were, worn out and wearied and longing for rest. Their faces will always haunt me.

(Ida Greaves, letter to family member) 13 September 1914

Our Matron was splendid all though it all. She was here, there and everywhere, helping in every way and always so cheerful.

(Staff Nurse Ella Redman, on the evacuation of No 38 CCS under fire 1918)

Has taken the greatest care in safeguarding the health of her nursing staff

(OC No 15 CCS referring to the influenza epidemic 1918, quoted from service record)

This lady makes a very successful matron

(Director General of Medical Services, 1919 , quoted from service record)

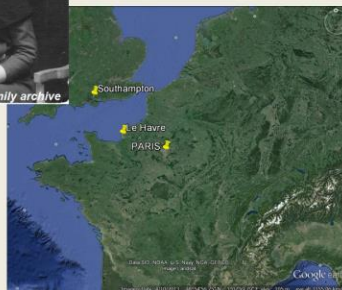
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There are some clues in things that she said herself and what her contemporaries said about her. This is a selection.

Facts v. supposition – why was Ida Greaves appointed Matron of the AVH? I don't know for certain but ...



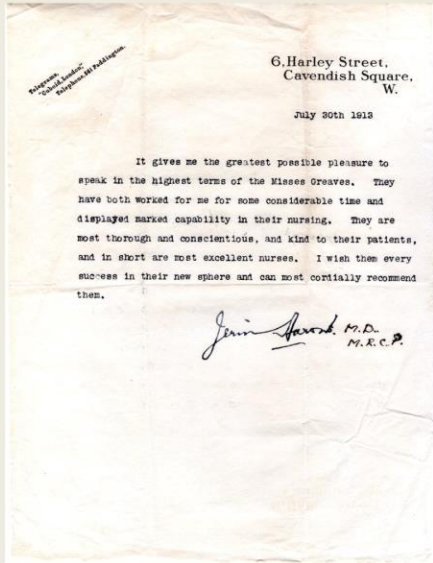
Matron Ida Greaves (centre) and nurses of the AVH, Southampton 27 August 1914, on the eve of departure for Le Havre in France.



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Facts v. supposition

- Why was Ida appointed matron of the hospital? I have not come across any documentation of this. There were 17 other trained nurses, the other women in this photo were the senior sisters of the AVH. But younger than IMG, who was 39.



Before August 1914 ... work

"Misses Greaves" refers to Ida and her sister Susie, also a trained nurse.

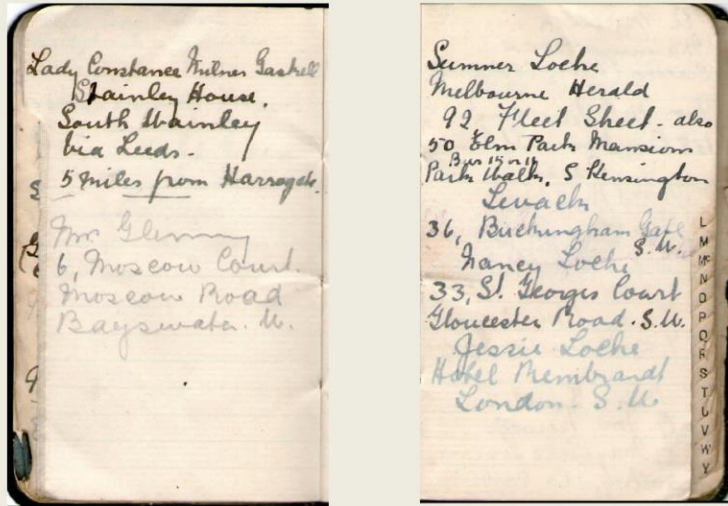
The reference is signed by Dr Jervois Aarons.

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Facts v. supposition

- Jervois Aarons was an Australian born doctor trained in Edinburgh and specialising as an obstetrician & gynaecologist. He was a consultant to the Queen's physician, so it is likely that the patients he refers to in this reference were the titled and famous. For him as for Ida, the great city of London [biggest in the world at the time] was a magnet. IMG's address book contains some clues.

Before August 1914 ... contacts



Pages from Ida Greaves' address book

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Facts v. supposition

- A titled lady – Lady Gaskell, later a woman of the bed chamber to Queen Mary.
- An Australian journalist and Suffragette working in London – Sumner Locke
- On other pages, as well as Australian addresses:
 - More titled ladies
 - Mrs Arthur Popplewell, a well-known opera singer who became a member of the executive committee of the AVH, said to have been the very close friend of Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth, the Australian beer magnate who had moved to England in retirement.
 - Addresses of women in the posh parts of London and the home counties.
- Supposition – Ida was probably well-connected in upper class circles

Another Novocastrian in London in 1914 ...



Lt Colonel William L'estrage Eames CBE VD; A Boer War veteran, appointed Commanding Officer of the Australian Voluntary Hospital

– he was also a Newcastle doctor with long standing connections to Newcastle Hospital.

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Facts v. supposition

The CO of the hospital was Lt Colonel William Eames, who was on leave from NH and would have had Ida as a student when she was a trainee!

Driving force behind formation of the AVH ...



*Rachel, Lady Dudley, wife of former
governor-general of Australia
Image: State Library NSW*

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Facts v. supposition

- A high society lady, wife of a former Gov Gen of Australia.
- When war broke out in August 1914, she rallied her Australian contacts in London to raise the funds for a field hospital.
- So why do you think Ida was chosen as the Matron?

Probably a combination of:

- Seniority and experience
- Good references / reputation in the right circles – perhaps IMG had more than one grateful patient from amongst the ranks of the aristocracy
- hence a nurse trained in far away Newcastle Hospital, NSW, had an excellent claim on the job of matron!

The medals of Ida Mary Greaves RRC



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Working with a family archive – own family or someone else's!

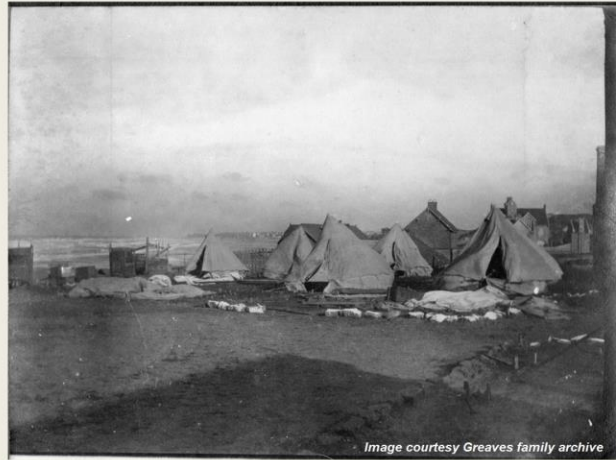
- Respect the copyright owner! Acknowledge the source.
- Don't get involved in family disputes about ownership of material!
- People need to know how you will use the material – article, book, website, public talk
- Reconciling contradictions – be up front with the family, explain the facts that bring you to a certain conclusion
- Family recollections can help you form a view of the character of your subject

Outline of chapters

1. Antecedents, family, early life and training; context of Newcastle / NSW / Australia / the world
2. At work and leisure in Europe to the outbreak of War and departure for France; context of the Edwardian world & path to war
3. **Into a war zone – first months as matron of the Australian Voluntary Hospital; context of the progress of the war**
4. **Mentioned-in-dispatches and summoned to Buckingham Palace – the investiture and attendant celebrations; context – Imperial honours**
5. **Mentioned-in-dispatches yet again – Ida's experiences in the latter years of the war; context of the progress of the war**
6. Homecoming, working life and retirement; context of Australia in the post-war years.

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Wimereux, Channel Coast of France



Tents after a gale

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Planning – choosing incidents, periods in a person’s life that are most significant / most interesting

The story of a person’s wartime experiences can be quite dark. So it’s good if you can find opportunities for comic relief. People researching an ancestor’s war service sometimes find this in their service record when there’s a reference to minor bad behaviour such as being confined to barracks for going absent without leave.

There is an intriguing photo and accompanying story in photos from 1914 when the Australian Voluntary Hospital had become established on the Channel coast near Boulogne. Several photos in Ida’s album provide context.

This is what remained of some of the staff tents after a storm.

Boulogne, Channel Coast of France



Image: Greaves family archive

Sea breaking over road into Boulogne

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And this is another example of the wild weather in that part of France.

According to "Banjo" Paterson ...



Collapsed Wall in Attic after a Storm AVH

image courtesy Graves family archive



Fragment of dust jacket

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This is the photo that raises a question for me. The Australian poet and war correspondent AB Paterson was attached to Ida's hospital for some weeks as an ambulance driver. In his book *Happy Despatches* Paterson writes that:

"A parson with no job but any amount of influence got himself sent over somehow, and as the hospital was full he had to be put to sleep in a little cubby-house on the top floor. A terrific storm came in the night and blew down a brick wall on the parson's bed, crushing it flat to the floor. There was a great rush to dig out the corpse; but the parson was not there – had not occupied his bed that night. This drew from the matron the acrid comment: 'I wish I knew whose bed he was in.'"

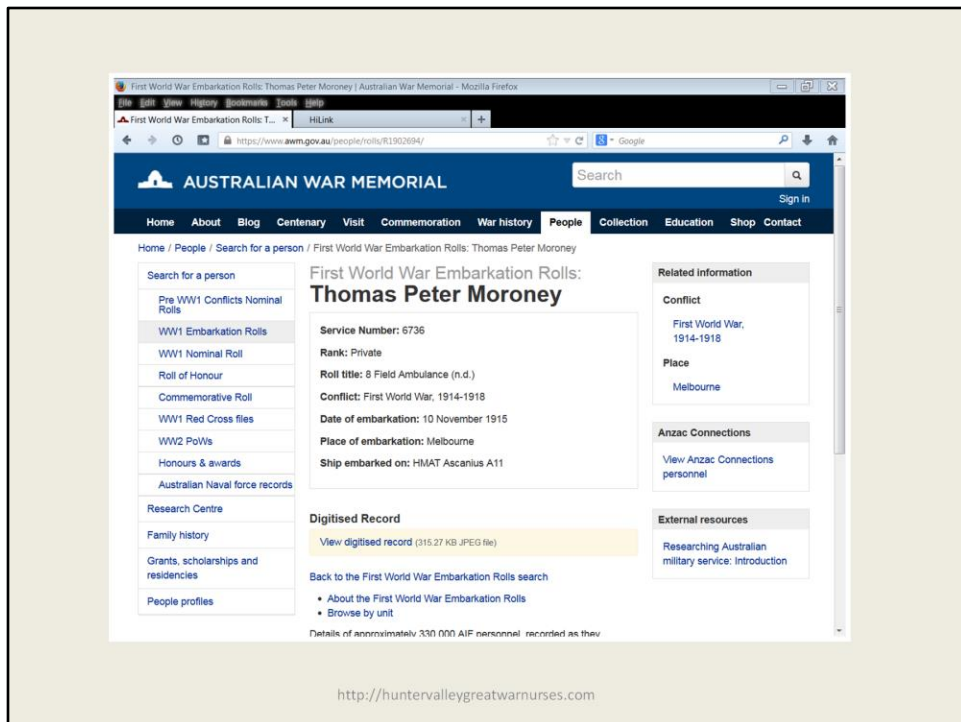
Does this photo relate to that incident or is it just a coincidence? The individual appears to be a member of the clergy and appears in other photos of hospital staff in clerical attire. But would this photo really have been taken if the story was true? Was ABP embroidering the truth for comic effect? It's a lesson to treat other people's accounts with a bit of caution!

Resources to get started on researching individuals who served in WW1

- Military museums especially the Australian War Memorial
- National, State & local Archives & libraries
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission records
- National Library of Australia – TROVE!

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Some of the material especially on websites is free, some you have to pay for in one way or another – you can search for free at the UK National Archives in Kew, but it will cost you an airfare and accommodation – cheaper to pay to download the material you are looking for!

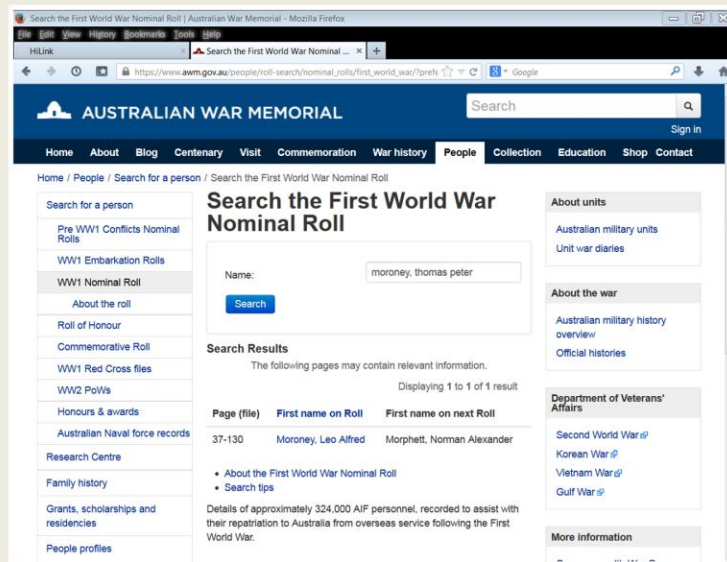


What the embarkation roll of the AIF can tell you ...

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE—NOMINAL ROLL—continued														
No.	Name in full	Rank	Age	Trade or Office	Regiment	Address at time of embarkation	Next of kin and address	Religion	Date of birth	A.I.F. No.	Rate			
											Basic	Other	Special	Total
											Pay	Grants	Prize money	Pay
											p.	p.	p.	p.
THE INFANTRY BRIGADE, THE FIELD ARTILLERY—B AND C BATTALIONS—continued														
4776	David, Arthur W. Walker	Private	30	Printer	B.	House on north of St.	John David, north, 107 South	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0
4777	Davies, Thomas Michael	"	35	Driver	B.	"	Thomas, Adelaide, Sydney, N.S.W.	Method.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4778	Thames, William Robert	"	36	Carpenter	B.	"	Charles, north, 107 South	Method.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4779	Dodd, Richard Sydney	"	37	Medical worker	B.	"	James, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	Method.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4780	Dubois, William Leslie	"	38	Electrical engineer	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4781	Doherty, Arthur Augustus	"	38	Driver	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4782	Dunn, Henry	"	39	Labourer	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4783	Dunn, David King	Driver	39	Labourer	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4784	Dunlop, James Robert	Driver	39	Labourer	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4785	Dunlop, Albert	Labourer	39	Labourer	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4786	Dunlop, Frank Thomas	Labourer	39	Labourer	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4787	Dunlop, Alexander	Private	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4788	Dunlop, Robert	"	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4789	Dunlop, William	"	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4790	Dunlop, Thomas William	Private	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4791	Dunlop, John	"	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4792	Dunlop, William Henry	"	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4793	Dunlop, Roy McDonald	"	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4794	Dunlop, William	"	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4795	Dunlop, Reginald	Private	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4796	Dunlop, John	"	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4797	Dunlop, John	"	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4798	Dunlop, John	"	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4799	Dunlop, John	"	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
4800	Dunlop, John	"	39	Carpenter	B.	"	John, 107 South, Sydney, N.S.W.	C of B.	19.4.19	10.4.19	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0

Embarkation roll of the First AIF
https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/nominal_rolls/first_world_war_embarkation/
<http://huntervalleygreatwarnurses.com>

What the columns show – regimental number, name, rank, age, occupation, marital status, address, next of kin and address, religion, date of joining, rate of pay.



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List of names on the nominal roll was compiled as troops were returning to Australia – so details don't necessarily match details when joining, eg rank, unit.

MORREY.									
63621	Sgt	MORREY	Leo Alfred	10th Battalion	28/3/18	R.A.A.	10/4/19		
4608	Spr	MORREY	Lawrence Francis	3rd Div Sig Coy	21/8/16	R.A.A.	11/8/19		
3055A	Cpl	MORREY	Kevin	52nd Battalion	29/8/18	R.A.A.	2/1/19		
106	Sgt	MORREY	Matthew	1st Vet Bde.	14/12/14	R.A.A.	29/4/18		
1630	Cpl	MORREY	Michael	25th Battalion	14/12/14	R.A.A.	4/10/18		
2894	Pte	MORREY	Michael	30th Battalion	30/8/15	R.A.A.	28/5/19		
4861	Pte	MORREY	Michael Edward	10th Battalion	28/8/15	R.A.A.	11/4/19		
1056	Pte	MORREY	Patrick	13th Battalion	27/12/14	R.A.A.	28/10/18		
4952	Pte	MORREY	Richard Joseph	8th Pioneer	24/8/15	R.A.A.	27/4/19		
1648	Pte	MORREY	Timothy David	2nd Pioneer	28/8/15	R.A.A.	29/6/18		
4738	Pte	MORREY	Thomas Peter	8th Pld Bde	28/8/15	R.A.A.	9/6/19		
1670	Pte	MORREY	William Herbert	4th A.M.C. Coy.	3/9/14	R.A.A.	23/9/18		
3872	Pte	MORREY	William Joseph	45th Battalion	19/7/15	R.A.A.	15/6/19		
28929	Spr	MORREY	William Joseph	3rd Div Sig	19/1/16	R.A.A.	1/7/19		
62118	Pte	MORREY	Clement Joseph	4th Gen Serv Bn.	10/6/18	R.A.A.	22/4/19		
1999	Pte	MORREY	Frederick Adolphus	3rd Sig Troop	20/4/16	R.A.A.	17/7/19		
4172	Pte	MORREY	Thomas Francis	27th Battalion	25/12/15	R.A.A.	31/7/19		
25060	Pte	MORREY	Albert Michael	42nd Battalion	15/4/15	R.A.A.	28/2/19		
34131	Spr	MORREY	Douglas Moore (M.)	3rd Div Sig Coy.	21/12/16	R.A.A.	27/6/19		
5454	Pte	MORREY	George Julius	56th Battalion	11/7/15	R.A.A.	17/8/19		
4907A	Pte	MORREY	William	56th Battalion	2/1/16	R.A.A.	2/6/19		
15678	Spr	MORREY	William Kent	31st Battalion	9/7/15	R.A.A.	28/6/19		
2190	Pte	MORREY	John	10th Bn.	2/1/15	R.A.A.	15/6/19		
360	Pte	MORREY	Harold	19th Battalion	1/7/15	R.A.A.	4/4/19		
193	Sgt	MORREY	Arthur Bartle	32nd Battalion	23/6/15	R.A.A.	30/7/16		
6642A	Pte	MORREY	Charles Andrew	1st F.C.	17/12/14	R.A.A.	24/9/18		
1447	Pte	MORREY	Charles Arthur	44th Battalion	6/6/17	R.A.A.	9/6/19		
15666	Pte	MORREY	Ernest Arthur	56th Battalion	25/6/15	R.A.A.	15/7/19		
356A	Pte	MORREY	Ernest Arthur	1st F.C.	11/6/15	R.A.A.	20/4/19		
2647	Pte	MORREY	Ernest Leslie	4th L.B.R.	15/10/17	R.A.A.	15/6/19		
1630	Pte	MORREY	George Henry	58th Battalion	24/6/15	R.A.A.	14/9/19		
448	Pte	MORREY	Clement Stuart	10th Battalion	6/6/14	R.A.A.	29/8/19		
1361	Pte	MORREY	Henry Albert	10th L.B.R.	14/12/14	R.A.A.	10/7/19		
1772A	L/Opl	MORREY	Henry George	39th Battalion	21/3/16	R.A.A.	17/5/19		
1211	Dvr	MORREY	Herbert Bartle	31st Battalion	13/6/15	R.A.A.	25/4/18		
35213	Pte	MORREY	Henry Joseph	28th Coy A.C.	13/5/16	R.A.A.	9/7/19		
289	Cpl	MORREY	Harry Richard	7th F.C.	3/10/16	R.A.A.	1/7/19		
8143	Pte	MORREY	John James	58th Sig B.F.C.	14/7/15	R.A.A.	18/7/19		
6279	Pte	MORREY	John Reginald	Cyclists Bn	23/7/15	R.A.A.	18/7/19		
		MORREY	Belville Alexander	1st Battalion	27/4/16	R.A.A.	12/1/17		

Nominal roll of the First AIF
https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/nominal_rolls/first_world_war/
<http://huntervalleygreatwarheroes.com>

Basic search | RecordSearch | National Archives of Australia - Mozilla Firefox

Search the collection - National Archi... Basic search | RecordSearch | Nationa... recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/BasicSearch

Australian Government NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA RecordSearch

Your story, our history

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Basic search for items Welcome guest

[Bringing Them Home name index](#)

Keywords

Date from to

[Advanced search for items](#)

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Try basic search.

The screenshot shows the National Archives of Australia RecordSearch interface. The page header includes the Australian Government logo, the National Archives of Australia logo, and the text "Your story, our history". The main heading is "RecordSearch". There are links for "Newly scanned records", "RecordSearch Forum", and "View previous searches". Below the header, there are tabs for "Basic search", "Advanced search", "NameSearch", "PhotoSearch", and "Passenger arrivals index". A "Help" link is also present. The "Item list" section shows a table of search results. The table has columns for "Select", "Series no.", "Control symbol", "Item title", "Date range", "Digitised item", "PDF", "Item barcode", and "Format". The first three rows of the table are visible, showing records for John Smith, J. S. John Souza Smith, and John F. Smith.

Select	Series no.	Control symbol	Item title	Date range	Digitised item	PDF	Item barcode	Format
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1	1916/6757	John Smith - Naturalization Access status: Open Location: Canberra	1916 - 1916			34248	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1	1919/6841	J. S. John Souza Smith Naturalization Access status: Open Location: Canberra	1919 - 1919			37619	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1	1930/2407	John F. Smith - Naturalisation Access status: Open Location: Canberra	1914 - 1930			44893	

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Be prepared to scroll through a lot of results!

Items listing - Mozilla Firefox

Search the collection - National Archives of Australia

RecordSearch

Register

Login name

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Newly scanned records RecordSearch Forum View previous searches

Basic search Advanced search NameSearch PhotoSearch Passenger arrivals index

Help

Item list Welcome guest

New search Refine search View selection Return to search result

Display 20 search results per page

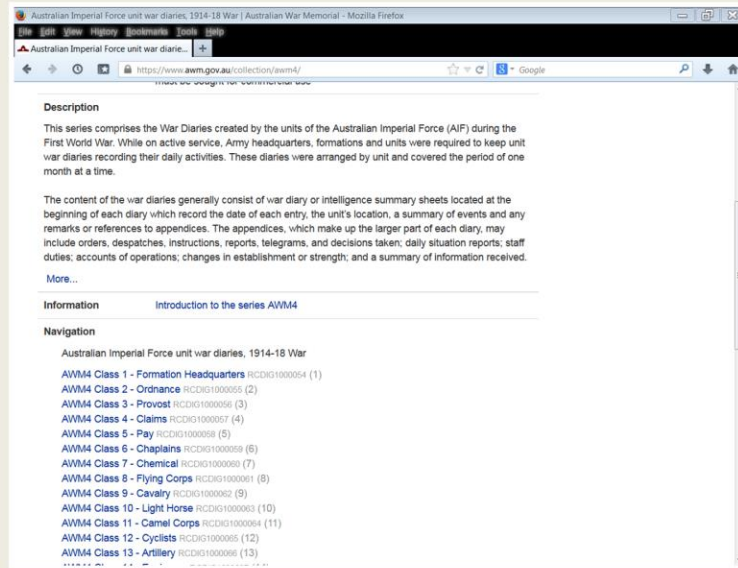
Displaying 41 to 60 of 1227

List report Details report

Select	Series no.	Control symbol	Item title	Date range	Digitised item	PDF	Item barcode	Format
<input type="checkbox"/>	B2455	SMITH A	Smith Alexander : SERN 5201 : POB Woodstock VIC : POE Perth WA : NOK F Smith John James Access status: Open Location: Canberra	circa1914 - circa1920			1743115	
<input type="checkbox"/>	B2455	SMITH A	Smith Alexander : SERN 12410-5899 : POB Hindmarsh SA : POE Oaklands SA : NOK F Smith John Access status: Open Location: Canberra	circa1914 - circa1920			1743121	
<input type="checkbox"/>	B2455	SMITH A	Smith Alexander John : SERN 3926 : POB Jerilderie NSW : POE Melbourne VIC : NOK M Robertson J J	circa1914 - circa1920			1743132	

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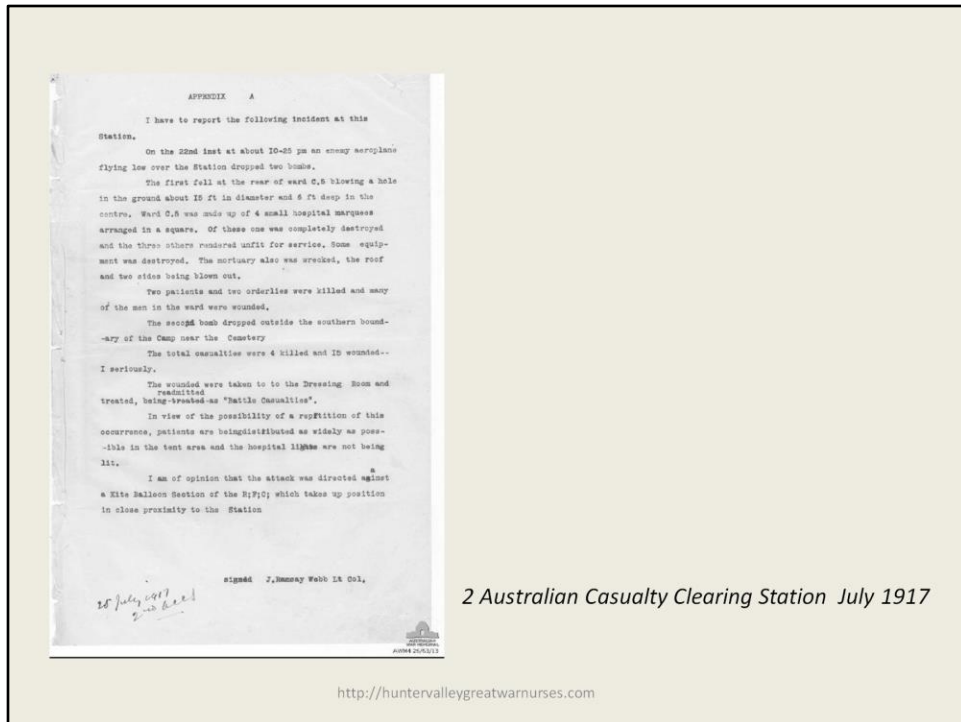
B2455 is the series number for service records.



AWM War diaries <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/awm4/>

<http://hunintervalleygreatwarnurses.com>

AWM has made many of the unit diaries from WW1 available online – sometimes includes names of individuals but just as important tells you where a unit was and what was happening. Warning – some are short on detail, dependent on how diligent the CO was!



Report of an air raid on the hospital.

UNOFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE 2nd AUSTRALIAN
CAUALTY CLEARING STATION.

PROLOGUE.

"They were splendid soldiers. They got few honours, little glory and often just six feet of France to lie in. But in their cheerful philosophy these worthy successors of the Men of Agincourt asked no more".

"Alarms and Recursions"

by
Lieut. General Sir Tom Bridges.

Although these lines by General Bridges had not then been penned, still it was with some such thoughts at the back of our mind that inspired all ranks of this C.C.S. to combine in an effort to use the resources of modern Surgery (and Medicine) in treating the fighting men that would come under their care.

General Tom Bridges will be best remembered as the Major Bridges who with a companion, a penny whistle and a toy drum, rallied some hundreds of worn out Britishers at St. Quentin in the retreat from Mons. - He will also be remembered after the War as Governor of South Australia.

Could it have been that - like many others in the A.I.F. - those lines out of Tennyson's "Ulysses" were ringing in our ears.

"Death closes all; but something ere the end,
Some work of noble sort, may yet be done;
Yet unborn men that strive with Gods;
The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks;
The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs; the deep
Moans round with many voices. - Come, my friends,
'Tis not too late to seek a newer world."

It may be that the gulf will wash us down:
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,
And see the great Achilles, whom we knew,
Twofold toil is labor, much elided; and the
We are not now that strength which in old days
Bored earth and heaven: that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will,
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

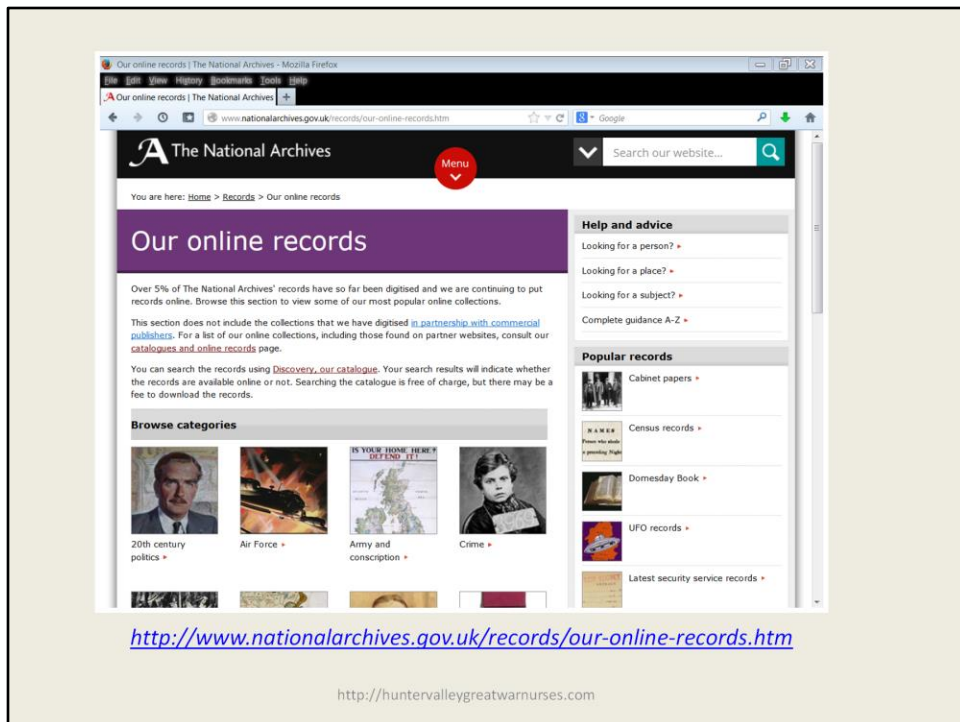
UNOFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE 2nd AUSTRALIAN
CAUALTY CLEARING STATION.

PART I.

By
The O.C. - Lt. Col. H.G. Stagg.

<http://huntermvalleygreatwarnurses.com>

An informal account found by searching Trove.



Quite a number of Australian men and women joined British units. I find the UK archives website is not as easy to search as NA Australia – similar records – service records, unit diaries - start with a person, move on to unit if you know it, [looking for a subject]

Some records destroyed in the blitz –luckily for my research, nurses service records mostly survived.

If you can't find the service records, you may still be able to find the medal card, which gives info about what unit someone was in.

NA UK are in process of digitising unit diaries, some already online, so this is another avenue to explore.

The National Archives | Search results: medals ida greaves - Mozilla Firefox

discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/77_g=medals+ida+greaves

medals ida greaves

Start new search Advanced search Browse

Filter results

Held by

- The National Archives (1)
 - Available for download only (1)
- Other archives (1)

Date

- 1950+ (1)
- 1925 - 1949 (1)
- 1900 - 1924 (2)
- 1800 - 1899 (1)

Refine

Records 2 Record creators 0

Descriptions of records and information about how to access them

1 - 2 of 2 results Sorted by: Relevance Simple view Print Export results

Medal card of Greaves, Ida Mary. Corps: Australian Volunteer Hospital Havre. Rank: Nurse....

War Office: Service Medal and Award Rolls Index, First World War, Women's Services, Distinguished Conduct Medals and Military Medals. Medal card of Greaves, Ida Mary. Corps Regiment No Rank Australian Volunteer Hospital Havre Nurse, Australian Volunteer Hospital Nurse.

Held by: The National Archives - War Office, Armed Forces, Judge Advocate General, and related bodies

Date: 1914 - 1920

Reference: WO 372/23/16818


<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/medals-british-armed-services-campaign-service.htm#>

<http://huntermvalleygreatwarnurses.com>

Name		Grade		Rank		No.	
GREENMAN		WMAAC		WVR		18045	
MAY M							
Medal		Roll		Page		Remarks	
VICTORY		WMAAC 10125		532			
HONORARY		do		do			
BORN							
Died of War first served in							
Date of entry therein							

K. 1809

Catalogue Reference: WO/372/23

 MAB Service
Engle House Spa
West Midlands B

Example of medal card of member of British forces in WW1

<http://huntermvalleygreatwarnurses.com>

Images of medal cards are scans of photocopies of photocopies ... So not great quality, but provide some basic information.

Report	From whom received	Report of operations, instructions, transfers, casualties, etc., during action, or, in special cases, from the authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Name, rank, corps, etc., as given in report, or as later official records.
30 th /18	3421	To 3 Gren Hpl		28 th /18	Bgs 8
30 th /18	"	" 29 C Co		4 th /19	"
18 th /18	2 S H	" 2 Stry Hpl		16 th /18	10018
26 th /18	8 C Co	" 8 C Co		15 th /18	"
24 th /18	"	7 C Co		14 th /18	"
8 th /18	1	1 C Co		2 th /18	"
14 th /18	DARG 1st	Adm 2 S H (Contusion Knee)		10 th /18	Exd 113026
24 th /18	"	"		21 st /18	"
27 th /18	2 S H	2nd Duty (horses 4, Abbville)		21 st /18	Promo
13 th /18	Rt. A.	Have 114 days		21 st /18	"
18 th /18	7 C Co	207 C Co		CR 15342190/18	"
21 st /18	"	" 12 Stry Hpl		15 th /18	10018
21 st /18	12 S H	15 C Co		20 th /18	"
18 th /19	100	May be demobilized.		17 th /18	"
26 th /19	mjc	To 1st Det 2nd Bn	Blagay	25 th /19	206

Catalogue Reference: WO/399/3290

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British service records set out v. similar Australian – using same or similar forms!

Only one search term is required to search.
Results can be filtered later as any incorrect details may return no results.

Surname

Forename / Initials ☒ Initials ☐ Forename

Country (commemorated in)

Cemetery or memorial

War

Date of death: (starting)

Date of death: (ending)

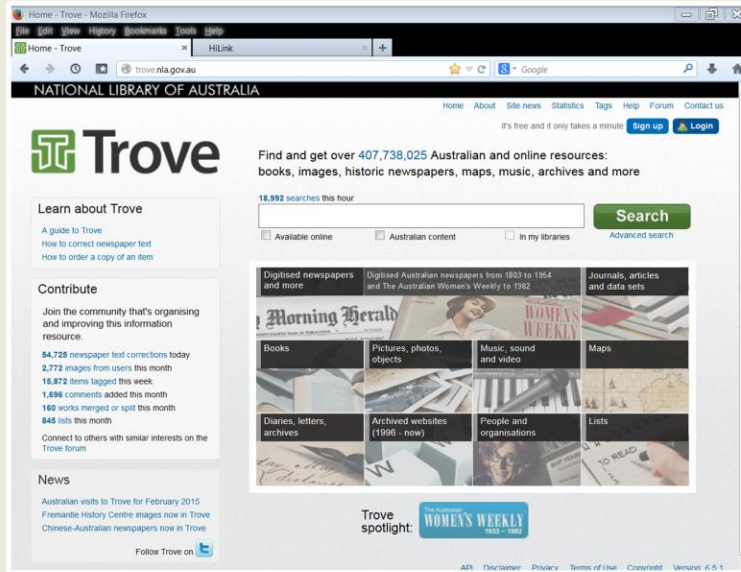
Served with ☐ United Kingdom Forces ☐ Canadian Forces
☐ Australian Forces ☐ Indian Forces
☐ New Zealand Forces ☐ South African Forces

Served in ☐ Army ☐ Merchant Navy
☐ Air Force ☐ Civilian War Dead
☐ Navy ☐ Miscellaneous

Unit

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx>

<http://huntermvalleygreatwarnurses.com>



<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

<http://huntervalleygreatwarnurses.com>

Newspapers - Advanced Search - Trove - Mozilla Firefox

trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/search/adv=y

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Advanced search - Digitised newspapers and more

Enter search terms in at least one of the fields below

All of these words

The phrase

Any of these words

Without these words

[Search](#)

Limit your results to (optional)

Search Scope
Limit keywords to only match in the field(s) selected

- ☒ Search anywhere in article (including tags and comments)
- ☐ Search anywhere in article (excluding tags and comments)
- ☐ Search headings only
- ☐ Search headings, author or 1st 4 lines (news articles only)
- ☐ Search captions only

Publication Date
Return only items published between dates (yyyy-mm-dd)

1914-01-01 From 1918-12-31 To

States and Titles
To search all newspapers, do not

Only show titles in the list below that... [\[SHOW FILTERS\]](#)

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VICTORIA CROSS HERO.

CAPTAIN JEFFRIES, OF ABERMAIN.

In the new list of awards for bravery on the battlefield appears the name of the late Captain Clarence S. Jeffries, son of Mr. Joshua Jeffries, Superintendent of the Abermain collieries, who has been awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry in action.

The official details regarding his bravery read as follows:—When his company was held up by machine gun fire from concrete emplacements, he organised a party, rushed the emplacement, and captured four machine guns and 35 prisoners. Then he led his company, under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, to the objective. Later he led an attack on another machine-gun emplacement, and captured two machine guns and 30 prisoners. This gallant officer was killed during the attack, but it was entirely due to his bravery and initiative that the centre of the attack was not held up for a long time.

The late Captain Jeffries was killed in action in the fifth phase of the Ypres battle on October 12. He was 23 years of age, and an only child. Prior to the war he was a surveyor at Abermain colliery, and a Lieutenant in the Militia, and was engaged for some time on the Instructional Staff before enlisting. He left with the 34th Battalion on May 2, 1916, with the rank of First Lieutenant, and served with the battalion up to June, 1917, when he was seriously wounded in the battle of Messines. In recognition of the splendid work done by him in that battle he was promoted to the rank of Captain. On recovering, he returned to his battalion, and remained until his death. He was a very promising young man, and a most capable officer.

Accessed from Trove 19 March 2015

<http://huntervalleygreatwarnurses.com>