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# The Granville Guardian

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The next general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 2.00 pm on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2012

At our Research Centre  
62 Railway Parade Granville  
Executive Meeting 1.00 pm

Guest Speaker

Jim Low

“Memories of my Childhood”

Our Centre is open every Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm and on the fourth Saturday of the month for personal research.

Visitors and members of family history societies are welcome.

A fee applies for non-members

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

“A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated.”

We are nearly half way through the year, a big thank you to all the members who carried the can for June & I last Wednesday. Our best wishes to members who are not well, also to those who have been on holidays.

News from Parramatta City Council this week that we have been unsuccessful in our grant applications has come as a blow to our forward planning, the Education Series for local schools will not be happening due to a lack of funding. It is becoming extremely difficult to obtain funding through the Telling Stories grant section. The problem is that because the structure of the grant is so broad, the not for profit welfare services who are able to apply have discovered that \$5,000 is quite a good amount for administration. Many of these organizations obtain funding for amounts of up to and over 1 million dollars which employs them. But they look outside that for administration. The Society did give two organizations a letter of support; we are still waiting to see the results of that. June has asked the Grants Coordinator to give her an evaluation of the submissions.

Three students have come to the society for information for their assignments, all three received top marks for their work, the only marks that were lost were due to grammar, punctuation and spelling. Two of the students were from Fort Street High School, but decided because they lived locally they would use Granville for their studies. Because of Parramatta City Council supports us they are given the information at no cost, and told why this can be done.

Our project of refurbishing the Granville RSL Memorial Cabinet has stalled at the moment; we are waiting for the results of a grant to do this. We have managed to clean it and re arrange the artefacts. It looks 100% better, we have been using our own resources to accomplish this because the Club Grants from Auburn RSL have not been available as the club does not support category two grants. However having said

that, we have accomplished a good deal, it has created a lot of interest and goodwill as we have included a lot of members who are still living and where they served, reports are that the members featured are so proud and happy that they have been recognised. We have found during our research that we have a Granville man Sydney Frank Smith who resided in Granville who went to the Boer War, he was attached to the South Australian Contingent, however his unit was the NSW IBC (if anyone knows what those initials stand for please let us know). Our past member Arthur Smith who donated a lot of information to the society before his death in 2003 was his son. We have included an Aboriginal Soldier and an New Zealand Flag with the story of Private Henderson who took over "Simpson's" donkey called Murphy when Simpson was killed, we have use that as our NZ connection although there were many instances that happened during the World War 1 campaign. We will eventually include all wars.



Our link with America is Frank Morrill who was an 18 year old sailor, his trade was a carpenter and he was stationed at Granville Park at the US No 10 Naval Base Hospital, Frank was there over Christmas in 1944, he is in good company with the two VC winners and Nurse Edith Cavell who was shot by the Germans for assisting allied troops to escape. He is still alive in America and can't believe that we have chosen him to represent America. A great big thank you to Arthur Naylor, we now have a list that we are calling "Arthur's List" it is an Excel spreadsheet which tell you who is in the Parramatta & District Soldiers and where they are as well as he has scanned every photo in that book, thanks Arthur form all researchers.

**Barry G Bullivant OAM**

## BRAVE WORLD WAR ONE SOLDIERS

**"Forgotten Heroes – Soldiers from Granville Decorated for Bravery in World War One" was the subject of a presentation that Colin Humphreys gave at our April meeting. Here is the first in a two-part transcript of that presentation.**

**Fifty people from Granville were decorated or commended for bravery or outstanding devotion to duty in World War One. (A Granville person was defined for this count as anyone with some link to Granville)**

**Two men, were Private George Cartwright of the 33rd Battalion, and Corporal Arthur Charles Hall of the 54th Battalion, received the highest possible honour, the Victoria Cross (VC), awarded for an act of outstanding courage or most conspicuous bravery. On 31 August 1918, when an Australian force crossed the Somme River on the Western Front and overwhelmed the defenders in an attack on a German stronghold, Mont St Quentin, George Cartwright displayed exceptional gallantry and supreme disregard for personal danger, in the face of withering machine gun fire. As the Australians advanced quickly towards their target, two companies on the northern flank were held up by a machine gun. Cartwright stood up with a rifle at his shoulder, walked forward and shot three Germans manning the gun, threw a bomb into the Germans' trench as cover, and rushed their position, capturing the gun and nine Germans.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Australian War Memorial (AWM): Honours and Awards,  
[https://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/honours\\_and\\_awards/](https://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/honours_and_awards/)

On the following day, the Australians attacked the nearby village of Péronne, and captured it 24 hours later, completing an advance that drove the enemy from one of its key positions in France.

**Corporal Hall** was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery, brilliant leadership and devotion to duty. As Hall's battalion attacked to clear the area between Péronne and the Somme River, they were held up by machine gun fire. Hall rushed the Germans' position alone, shot four of the enemy, and captured nine others as well as two machine guns. Then advancing with a small party towards Péronne, he gave covering support to the remainder of the company, all the time seeking out enemy posts, and seizing small parties of prisoners and machine guns. The next morning during a heavy barrage, he carried to safety a comrade who had been seriously wounded. Returning to his company, which was heavily involved throughout the day, Corporal Hall's energy and personal courage greatly contributed to the success of the operation.

Arthur Hall was born in Granville in 1896 but was raised on his father's property at Nyngan. His great grandfather was Edward Smith Hall, a prominent grazier, newspaper proprietor and banker. Arthur Hall's maternal grandmother was a Granville resident for 20 years in the 1890s and early 1900s, and his mother lived with her in Good Street for four years before marrying Charles Hall in St Mark's Church in 1894.<sup>2</sup>

George Cartwright was born in London, worked on a sheep station near Inverell in northern New South Wales before enlisting in the AIF, and after the war settled at Merrylands, working as a mechanic. As an officer in the militia, he trained recruits in the Merrylands Drill Hall, then located in Granville Park. A signpost and a plaque in the park commemorate his achievements.<sup>3</sup>

The second highest gallantry award after the VC was the Distinguished Service Order (DSO), an award made to officers for an act of meritorious or distinguished service under fire or in the presence of the enemy. Two Granville men received this award in World War One.

**Captain Patrick Joseph Francis O'Shea**, the son of Irish born publicans Daniel and Margaret O'Shea of the Royal Hotel in South Street Granville, earned a DSO, a Military Cross and Bar and a Mention in Despatches. He was 24 years of age, newly graduated in Medicine from Sydney University, and working at Sydney Hospital, when he joined the Army Medical Corps on 6 September 1916. He was sent overseas in November and after three months at medical camps in England, moved to France and postings to the 2nd Field Ambulance, 2nd Australian General Hospital and the 56th Casualty Clearing Station. In September, during the Battle of Menin Road, part of the 3rd Battle of Ypres, he was awarded the Military Cross for remarkable courage and energy while in charge of stretcher bearers and responsible for the care and evacuation of the wounded. He was awarded a bar to the MC a week later, when he did courageous work organising stretcher parties under heavy fire and, in the thick of the barrage, dressed the wounded in the open. His actions, carried out with a disregard of personal danger, saved many lives. He was gassed a few weeks later but remained on duty. He was gassed again in March 1918, and evacuated to England where he was treated for severe gas poisoning. When he recovered he returned to France and was appointed medical officer to the 8th Battalion. During the attack on Herleville Wood, south of the Somme, on 23 August he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for displaying sublime courage, initiative and devotion to duty. Keeping up with the advance, he treated the wounded wherever

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<sup>2</sup> AWM: Honours and Awards; Granville Historical Society ( GHS): Family History files

<sup>3</sup> GHS Family History files

the casualties were heaviest, using captured German prisoners as bearers. When the advance stalled and the leading troops fell, he went forward and treated them under furious machine gun and artillery fire. Later when the leading men were subjected to a heavy gas shell bombardment, he did heroic work moving through the gas-drenched area, treating and collecting wounded and blinded men, and leading them to safety.

Following his return from the war, Doctor O'Shea suffered a war neurosis which resulted in speech loss for six months, and physical problems due to gassing. After a long recovery, he worked as a psychiatrist in mental hospitals and private practice.<sup>4</sup>

The other recipient of the second level D.S.O. was Captain Claude Cadman Easterbrook of the 7th Light Horse Regiment, who was among the last to be evacuated from Gallipoli. He was promoted to major late in the war. The son of a Granville police sergeant, Easterbrook was awarded a Military Cross for his efforts at Gallipoli, and the DSO and a Mention in Despatches for his service in Sinai, Palestine and Trans-Jordan. He was badly wounded by a bomb in April 1917, but returned to his unit two months later and was commended for conspicuous ability and great gallantry.<sup>5</sup>

Seven Granville men qualified for a Distinguished Conduct Medal, the second highest award for other ranks after the Victoria Cross.

In September 1918, Australian forces followed up their victories at Mont St Quentin and Péronne with the capture of the village of Hargicourt. Private Jack Markham Mitchell, a 28-year-old Granville horse trainer, showed gallantry and dash as the 1st Battalion advanced. He disposed of three hostile machine guns at different points of resistance, inflicting casualties and taking prisoners, and with his platoon commander attacked an enemy garrison of 30, taking 18 prisoners and killing seven. He personally accounted for six of the enemy killed in another clash. The citation for his Distinguished Conduct Medal said he showed magnificent spirit and set a fine standard of courage and devotion to duty.<sup>6</sup>



Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood of the 19th Battalion, son of George and Sara Wood of Membrey Street Granville, was honoured for his prompt action in putting out a fire in explosives at Pozières on 25 August 1916. The blaze began when enemy shelling hit a stack of boxes in the bomb store. At great personal risk, while shells fell around him, he threw earth over the flames for about five minutes until the fire was extinguished. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, his second award in 12 months. He won the Military Medal at Gallipoli in early September 1915, when while only 15 metres from enemy trenches, he stopped enemy soldiers from interfering with the work of consolidating a trench. In November 1916, Sergeant Wood was wounded when his battalion suffered nearly 400 casualties in an attack on a German position near Fleurs. He was evacuated to

<sup>4</sup> AWM Honours and Awards; GHS Family History files; Garton, Stephen, 'O'Shea, Patrick Joseph Francis (1892–1952)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/oshea-patrick-joseph-francis-7930/text13801>, accessed 14 April 2012.

<sup>5</sup> AWM Honours and Awards; *Granville Guardian*, Granville Historical Society, vol. 19 issue 3, April 2012

<sup>6</sup> AWM Honours and Awards

England, but his wounds became infected and he died in hospital. He was only 22.<sup>7</sup>

Sergeant Wood's good friend, Bombardier Stanley Francis Chippindale, whose father was a Granville postman, was also the recipient of a Distinguished Conduct Medal. On 19-20 July 1916 he was a telephone specialist in the front trenches during the 25th Field Artillery Brigade's bombardment in support of the Fifth Division in the Battle of Fromelles. He worked to maintain communications from 11 in the morning to 11 at night, despite very heavy shell and rifle fire, and being wounded early by a shell explosion. The work frequently required him to repair broken telephone wires under heavy fire. After he was relieved he was treated for his wound, and then transferred to Newcastle Hospital in England where he died on 17 August.<sup>8</sup>

Sergeant William Dawson Fisk of the 20th Battalion, son of Ella Fisk of The Grove, Guildford, was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his conspicuous bravery in rescuing wounded men under hostile fire near Armentieres in June 1916. While returning from a successful raid on enemy trenches, several men in the raiding party were wounded in no man's land by heavy artillery and machine gun fire. Sergeant Fisk returned to the battalion's trenches, gathered together extra stretchers and stretcher bearers, and went back to aid the wounded men. He returned three times, guiding and assisting the bearers to rescue the wounded, despite very intense enemy fire. A month after his heroic action, he was killed in action, one of the 170 members of his battalion killed in the battle for Pozières. More than 300 others were wounded.<sup>9</sup>

Sergeant Francis William Owens, a farmer of Blaxcell Street Granville, serving with the Siege Artillery Brigade, was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1917 for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. The citation said his coolness under fire and his zeal and reliability had been remarkable. He was born at Dubbo, and three months before enlisting he married a Parramatta girl, Elizabeth McKenzie.<sup>10</sup>

Corporal Albert John Smith was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal while serving with the 1st Tunnelling Company in France in 1917. He was honoured for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when he made his way through a badly gassed area underground. He made two successive journeys though affected by gas himself. Albert Smith was born in England and was living with his sister in Lumley Street Granville when he enlisted in November 1915, aged 33.<sup>11</sup>

A young butcher from South Street Granville, Trooper Harold Long, of the 14th Light Horse Regiment, won his Distinguished Conduct Medal near Tul Keram in Palestine in September 1918. Returning from a manoeuvre to draw the enemy's fire, he and another man came into contact with an enemy convoy. They charged the convoy and captured it, together with its escort of three officers and 10 other ranks. The citation praised his initiative and devotion to duty. Trooper Long was only 18 when he enlisted on 24 January 1917.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>7</sup> AWM Honours and Awards, Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry files

<sup>8</sup> AWM Honours and Awards; *Cumberland Argus*, 25 October 1916, p. 3

<sup>9</sup> AWM Honours and Awards, First World War Diaries, 20 Battalion, July 1916; NAA: B2455/Fisk W D 545; *Cumberland Argus*, 7 October 1916, p. 10

<sup>10</sup> AWM Honours and Awards; NAA: B2455/ Owens Francis William 379

<sup>11</sup> AWM Honours and Awards

<sup>12</sup> AWM Honours and Awards

The Military Cross and Military Medal were on the third level of awards below the Victoria Cross, Distinguished Service Order and Distinguished Conduct Medal in World War One.

**Captain Arthur Andrew White** was awarded the Military Cross for his general good work after landing at Gallipoli on 12 May 1915, and particularly during the evacuation, when with a small group of men he held on after the withdrawal of most of the regiment. He was wounded at Gallipoli in fighting that saw most of the officers in his regiment wounded. Serving in Palestine, he was promoted to major in June 1916, and fought in another fierce battle near Beersheba when all the officers in his squadron were wounded and the command was handed over to a sergeant. In 1918, he was appointed military governor of a district in Palestine under General Allenby's scheme for the administration of captured Ottoman territory.<sup>13</sup>

**Regimental Sergeant Major Francis James Doherty** was a prominent Granville football player before the war. Born in Ireland, and with 16 years experience in the British Navy, he tried to resume his naval service when war broke out but was knocked back. He enlisted in the A-I-F in May 1915 and was posted to the 4th Battalion, reaching the rank of Sergeant Major within 10 months. He served on the Gallipoli Peninsula and in Egypt. But, in December 1916 at Mametz in the Somme, he suffered a face injury and a severe wound to his right thigh when a Mills bomb exploded accidentally in a hut in the support trenches. After six operations and three months in a hospital bed in England, he learnt he had been awarded the Military Cross for his energy, coolness and courage. Frank Doherty went back to France as Regimental Sergeant Major at the end of August 1917, but on his return to the front line, was again badly injured when a shell exploded near him in the opening stages of the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October. Fragments of shrapnel struck him on the face, causing deafness and the loss of his sight for several days. He was sent back to England for treatment and returned to Australia in February 1919 with his Irish bride. He died on 18 May 1919 from acute nephritis resulting from his war wounds.<sup>14</sup>

**Lieutenant William Richard Haigh** of the 17th Battalion was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous bravery near Westhoek on 20 September 1917. The citation said he led his men with great skill under very heavy shell fire. Though losing men and fellow officers rapidly, he kept moving out amongst them and encouraging them, until he himself was wounded and forced to go to the rear. A year after being honoured he was badly affected by gas and died in a London hospital on 26 November 1918. Lieutenant Haigh was educated at Granville Public School, Sydney High, and Granville Technical College.<sup>15</sup>

**Lieutenant Sydney William Barker**, son of William Barker of The Avenue Granville, won the Military Cross in August 1917 for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while serving with the 3rd Divisional Trench Mortar Battery. By his tenacity and courage whilst in charge of a battery he kept his guns in action under heavy hostile fire of every description. Lieutenant Barker had a varied career in the war. An accountant

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<sup>13</sup> AWM Honours and Awards; *Granville Guardian* April 2012; *Cumberland Argus*, 8 March 1919, p. 6

<sup>14</sup> AWM Honours and Awards; NAA: B2455/Doherty F J 2359; *Cumberland Argus*, 24 May 1919, p. 11

<sup>15</sup> AWM Honours and Awards; NAA: B2455/Haigh W R; *Cumberland Argus*, 18 January 1919, p. 10

before he enlisted, he served with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force in New Guinea, the A.I.F in England and France, and as a pilot in the Australian Flying Corps. Less than three weeks before the war ended he was injured when he crashed his Bristol fighter aircraft after flying into a severe storm over mountains in Syria. He returned to Australia in March 1919.<sup>16</sup>

**Captain Ernest Noel Brougham Docker**, son of Judge E.B. Docker formerly of Granville, served with the Army Medical Corps from February 1916, when he was 30, to February 1919. He received the Military Cross for a fine example of courage and devotion to duty near Villers-Bretonneux in April 1918 when he was in charge of 13th Field Ambulance bearers. During a night attack by the 13th Infantry Brigade he followed up with his bearers, made contact with the regimental aid posts, and organised a line of bearer relays while the attack was progressing, and under machine gun and heavy shell fire.<sup>17</sup>



Nursing sister **Evelyn Jane Nobbs**, a descendant of Fletcher Christian, leader of the Bounty mutineers, was awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal, ARRC (2nd Class). This ranked just below the Military Cross in the order of precedence for World War One military honours, and above the Distinguished Service Medal and Military Medal. It was introduced by Queen Victoria in 1883 to recognise special devotion and competence in nursing duties. Nurse Nobbs was 25 when she enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service in June 1915. Nine months earlier, her younger sister, Augusta, had married Lieutenant Arthur Andrew White in St Mark's Church Granville. Nurse Nobbs left for the Middle East in late June 1915 and served at the Choubra Infectious Diseases Hospital in Cairo, the 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station and the 2nd and 3rd Australian General Hospitals in France. She returned to Australia on 11 March 1920. Evelyn Nobbs was born at Norfolk Island on 8 December 1889, to the Reverend George Rawdon and Emily Harriett Nobbs. George Nobbs parents were the Reverend George Hunn Nobbs, a notable figure in the history of Norfolk and Pitcairn Islands and Sarah Christian, the granddaughter of Fletcher Christian.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> AWM Honours and Awards; NAA: B2455/Barker S W 226 75

<sup>17</sup> AWM Honours and Awards: NAA/B2455 Docker E N B

<sup>18</sup> NAA: B2455/Nobbs Staff Nurse; St Mark's Church Marriage Register; Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards, [http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/honours/awards/docs/order\\_of\\_wearing.pdf](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/honours/awards/docs/order_of_wearing.pdf) ; *Melbourne Argus*, 13 March 1920, p.20; GHS Family History files