

The Friendship Times



EDWARD and HANNAH DESCENDANT NEWSLETTER

Issue No 2/15



The meeting at Pugh's Lagoon Richmond was a good meeting if a bit longer than normal as there was some detailed discussion on the Memorial for Edward and Hannah at St Matthews Windsor.

The weather was very kind to us as during the week leading up to the meeting there was a lot of rain about.

“Edward & Hannah Corner”

On the 25th March 1788 the Lady Penrhyn, Charlotte and the Scarborough all transport ships were discharged and sailed from Port Jackson. This must have started a lot of talk within the convict ranks that they were going to be abandoned.

There was a lot of talk among the convicts , one small group was convinced that China was just north of where they were so they escaped and set off north only to come to a stop at the Hawkesbury without finding China

History in Our Time (well most of us)

On 20th March 2006 the State Archives convict records were inscribed into the **Australian UNESCO Memory of the World Project Register** at a ceremony at the Sydney Records Centre. The convict records archive is one of the most important and extensive penology archives in the world and covers the period 1787-1842

Promoting First Fleet; I gave two talks to our local St Finbars School one week apart, the first was on the voyage of the First Fleet and the second on how they managed after they arrived covering living, food, schooling, naming of places and what happen to the ships. In the naming of places I had slides for the overhead projector of the road signs for Edward Drive, Pugh Avenue and Hannah Way to show how the names of some convicts will live on.

The children about 60 were very well behaved and participated with answers to the question I asked, they also asked many questions of their own.

“Smile Time” Important info....please take the time to read.

It's so good to finally get a health warning that is useful!!!

I don't know WHY I didn't figure this out sooner! I use shampoo in the shower! When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning,
"FOR EXTRA BODY AND VOLUME."

No wonder I have been gaining weight!

Well I got rid of that shampoo and I am going to start showering with a dishwashing soap instead. Its label reads,

"DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE."

Problem solved!

“WW 1 Members Family History Story” by John Dun

PERCY’S WAR

As we commemorate 100 years since the Great War, I have been asked to share something of the story of my great uncle, Percy Muir Dun, who was decorated three times for bravery on the Western Front. I have been fortunate to be able to read and transcribe the pocket diary he kept over these years.

Percy was a country boy from Wootton, on the old Pacific Highway north of Bulahdelah. He enlisted in Newcastle on 7th February 1916, aged 21. He became part of the 35th Battalion, which had been formed in December 1915. As the bulk of its recruits were drawn from the Newcastle region, it was dubbed "Newcastle's Own". After some basic training near Maitland, the battalion sailed from Sydney and spent three months training in England.

Percy must have shown some form of leadership early in his training, as he was promoted to Lance Corporal in September 1916. Then, on the 20th November, he was promoted to Corporal the day before the battalion left for France. They landed in France at Le Havre and, after two weeks' training, moved into the trenches at Armentieres. They arrived just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-17. For the next few months their activities were very limited. *Life was an existence*, Percy commented in his diary. There was some relief in early May 1917, when he spent 14 days in rest camp at Boulogne, where he enjoyed tennis and bathing in the surf.

The battalion had to wait until mid-1917 to take part in its first major battle – near Ypres in Belgium. This was where Percy rejoined the battalion. It was a quick reminder of the reality of trench warfare. He wrote of the intense strain from continual enemy bombardment, with heavy use of gas shells. Two days before the battalion went into battle he was again promoted, this time to Lance Sergeant.

The **Battle of Messines** was launched on 7th June. Percy's diary entry for that day reads: *Attacked enemy lines at 3.10am. Could scarcely breathe from exploding mines and fumes, awful shellfire. Blown up, covered in mud, no sleep, eyes cut to pieces by gas and smoke. Attack a complete success – all objectives taken.* For his actions on this day he was later awarded the **Military Medal** "for bravery in the field".



Military Medal

Twenty-three days later he received a severe wound to the left thigh. He records this in his diary: *Shell exploded in dugout at night –wounded in both legs. Passed through several dressing stations. Pain intense. Taken out by train. X-rays showed 3 pieces of shell. On July 2 he wrote: Operation – pieces extracted – very weak – pain rotten.*

He was taken by train to Calais and evacuated to England, where he spent three weeks in hospital and another seven convalescing.

He rejoined his battalion in the sea of mud that was **Passchendaele**. Here, in his own words, he was "blown up, badly shocked, had to be evacuated". This time he was sent to a French hospital for treatment and was back with his unit ten days later.

When the German Army launched its last great offensive in the spring of 1918, the 35th Battalion was part of the force deployed to defend the approaches to Amiens around Villers-Bretonneux. It was for his actions during this battle that Percy was awarded the **Military Cross**. The recommendation, dated: 7 March 1918 and signed by Major General John Monash, stated:

For most gallant service and devotion to duty on night 3^d-4th March, 1918, during raid on enemy trenches in vicinity of Warnestone. This officer was in command of the left second line storming party. He led his party with great gallantry and dash, killing the crew of a machine gun and capturing the gun. Largely due to his excellent example, his party achieved considerable success.



Military Cross

The next month he was promoted to lieutenant.

In August 1918 Percy was wounded for the third time during the **Battle of Amiens**, but stayed on duty. It was for his actions in this offensive that he received a bar to his Military Cross. The recommendation dated, 13th August 1918, stated:

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations against enemy positions south of the Somme on 8th August 1918. In the attack on Accroche Wood and afterward, Lieut. Dun showed great determination and leadership in keeping his men together and maintaining direction in spite of the fog, which obscured everything. On two occasions when held up by machine gun fire he personally led his men and rushed and captured the guns and about forty prisoners. His example and determination encouraged his men, and was very largely influential in getting them forward. He displayed fine leadership and personal bravery. This officer was awarded the Military Medal for Messines Operation in June 1917 and Military Cross for a raid opposite Warneton in March 1918.

Percy was again wounded on the 28th August. His diary records it this way: *Attacked at 5.30am. Reached the foot of Curlu Hill and was knocked sideways by a fire mine. Hit on the left jaw. Carried by Fritz, ambulances etc.*



Lieutenant P M Dun

This was the fourth time he had been wounded, and it was the most serious. He was evacuated to a Red Cross Hospital in Rouen, France and then evacuated to the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, with the report stating, "Gunshot wound to face, head & fractured jaw

Percy had seen his last of the Western Front. He spent the rest of 1918 and the early part of 1919 in hospital and convalescing. It was not until June that he finally arrived back in Sydney. He lived most of the rest of his life in Glenreagh, where he raised cattle and became bookkeeper and then manager of a timber mill. He died in 1971, aged 76.

Edward and Hannah's memorial at St Matthews Anglian Church Cemetery

It is anticipated that it should be installed at about the same time as our next meeting as I advised the stone mason to go ahead on the 27th March, after I received approval for the memorial. The plaques take about 8 to 10 weeks to manufacture.

"Next Meeting;"

Next meeting date - 30th May 2015 at Terry and Marilyn place, if you need directions email the secretary for help

I will have some news about the memorial at St Matthews Anglican Church cemetery and Wendy wants feedback on the Generation A&B also B&C documents that have been forward to every one, so please look at them before the meeting.

Regards Ray (April 2015)