

# Remembrance Day

From the website of the Australian War Memorial:

*At 11 a.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, 1918, the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November, the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender.*

*The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.*

*On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919, two minutes' silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new Cenotaph in London. The silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Honey, who was working in Fleet Street. At about the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour of the armistice "which stayed the worldwide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom". The two minutes' silence was popularly adopted and it became a central feature of commemorations on Armistice Day.*

*In Sydney, NSW, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, 1919, the view from Castlereagh Street looking down towards George Street, was of a large crowd which gathered in Martin Place to celebrate Armistice Day. The clock on the GPO building said twelve o'clock and a replica sailing ship float had been set up in the centre. A bandstand with a domed roof was visible in the background.*

*On the second anniversary of the armistice in 1920, the commemoration was given added significance when it became a funeral, with the return of the remains of an unknown soldier from the battlefields of the Western Front. Unknown soldiers were interred with full military honours in Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triumph in Paris. The entombment in London attracted over one million people within a week to pay their respects at the unknown soldier's tomb. Most other allied nations adopted the tradition of entombing unknown soldiers over the following decade.*

*After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead.*

*In Australia on the 75th anniversary of the armistice in 1993, Remembrance Day ceremonies again became the focus of national attention. The remains of an unknown Australian soldier, exhumed from a First World War military cemetery in France, were ceremonially entombed in the Memorial's Hall of Memory. Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns and cities all over the country, culminating at the moment of burial at 11 a.m. and coinciding with the traditional two minutes' silence. This ceremony, which touched a chord across the Australian nation, re-established Remembrance Day as a significant day of commemoration.*

*Four years later, in 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring the 11<sup>th</sup> of November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minute's silence at 11 a.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.*

At the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, thirty-three members, within a total of about 275 members at the time, enlisted. Their names appear on an Honour Board, designed by Walter Reeks, in the Honour Bar of the club, which is to the left of the main entrance. The names are:



Sir Alexander MacCormick, Dr. H. J. Brennand, Dr. Gordon Craig, Dr. C. L. Macintosh, Dr. C. Retallack, Dr. J. B. St. V. Welch, Dr. E. C. Temple-Smith, and Messrs. C. M. Barker, G. F. Bestic, Herbert Binnie, P. Brown, Robert D. Burns, Wm. Cope, F. M. Coxon, L. E. Dawson, Owen B. Dibbs, W. T. Forrest, C. H. G. Henty, A. Hordern, T. Horne, R. L. Johnson, R. M. King, Walter M. Marks, H. W. Marshall, H. Millett, L. J. Milson Jnr, Stewart Milson, E. M. Mitchell, H. J. Preston, R. W. Potter, E. S. R. Taylor, J. T. Toohey, and C. M. Young.

There were 4 casualties:

## **Captain Stewart Milson**

**Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1915 – The Sydney Morning Herald**

CAPTAIN MILSON.

Captain Stewart Milson, mentioned in despatches, was killed in action at the Dardanelles. He was the eldest son of Mr. Arthur J. Milson, of Walaya, Milson's Point. The deceased officer was 28 years of age, and a bachelor. Captain Milson had previously been wounded before he met his death between August 6 and 8. In the attack on Gaba Tepe a shrapnel bullet struck him in the back, but was subsequently removed, and after a rest he went back to his work in the trenches with the 4th Battalion. The late Captain Milson was educated at the King's School, Parramatta, and while in that school took a keen interest in the cadet corps, of which he was a member. On leaving school he spent three years with Messrs. Dalgety and Co., and, still keeping up his interest in military affairs, joined the Scottish Rifles, rising to the rank of captain. Leaving the city, he went on the land as manager of Illilliwa station, near Hay. He resigned his position to go to the front.



**CAPTAIN S. MILSON**  
(MILSON'S POINT),  
KILLED.

## **Lieutenant Robert David Burns**

**Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 – The Sydney Morning Herald**

DEATH OF LIEUT. R. D. BURNS.

Lieut. Robert D. Burns, the third son of Col. J. Burns, M.L.C., has died of wounds. He was attached to a machine gun company and was reported missing at the Battle of Pozieres. Considerable advancement had been made during the night of July 19, but on the morning of 20th the company found that the Germans had made an encircling movement, seriously jeopardising their position. The company lost heavily, only one officer out of fourteen remaining unhurt. It was known that Lieut. Burns had been wounded, and a Newcastle officer reported he had seen his dead body. From a cablegram received last week, it would appear that he had eventually died in enemy hands, as his name appears in a German list of British officers who had succumbed. He was part-owner of a station near Rockhampton, which he managed, before enlisting, and was 25 years of age.

## **Captain Owen Burton Dibbs**

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 – The Daily Telegraph**

CAPTAIN OWEN DIBBS

Killed in France.

It was announced on the Sydney Stock Exchange yesterday morning that one of the members, Captain Owen Dibbs, had been killed in action in France on April 1. Deceased was the third son of Mr. Burton Dibbs, of the legal firm of Dibbs, Parker, and Parker, and a grandson of Sir Thomas Dibbs. His brother, Lieut. T. Dibbs, was killed in action on August 27, 1915. A member of the Stock Exchange since August, 1910 — having obtained a seat immediately on coming of age — the late Captain Dibbs was one of the most deservedly popular members of "the House." Shortly after the war started he offered his services to his country, and for a while was in charge of the German concentration camp at Berrima. Thence he ultimately went to the front, where he early won recognition. In December last he was complimented by the General commanding the 4th Australian Division "on his initiative and gallant leadership at Zonnobeko on October 12, 1917." In 1913 Captain Dibbs married Miss Carla Vera Alexander, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Stuart Alexander, of Albury and Sydney. He leaves his widow and one son.

## **Captain R. L. Johnson**

To date, no information has surfaced about Captain Johnson.