
THE GREAT
Fallen
LEST WE
Forget





It is one hundred years since the war to end all wars first raged over Europe . . . and yet even now it's difficult to fathom the depth of this nation's human loss - almost 62,000 young lives in totality – before the guns fell silent in November 1918.

It was said that the flower of a generation – the fittest, the strongest, the bravest and most brilliant – were taken from us in the prime of their fledgling lives.

Amongst them were eleven men who once chased the leather for the Carlton Football Club – eleven of the tens of thousands who paid for their nation's liberties in blood, who sacrificed their tomorrows so that we could have today . . .

That the world would again be thrust into war, the largest and most destructive war humanity has ever known, is incomprehensible – and yet through the six long years of World War II the world burned – from the Ural Mountains of Russia to the beaches of Normandy, from the jungles of Asia and the Pacific to the deserts of North Africa and the Middle East. For this was a conflict born out of a flawed peace and fuelled by the mad dreams of a few. A conflict which would claim the lives of more than 27,000 Australians in action – five more Carlton footballers amongst them – in its horrific human toll.



**They went with songs to the battle,
they were young.**

**Straight of limb, true of eye,
steady and aglow.**

**They were staunch to the end
against odds uncouth,
They fell with their faces to the foe.**

**They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.**

**At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.**



**– FROM LAURENCE BINYON'S POEM
"FOR THE FALLEN"**

SERGEANT *George David Challis*

58TH INFANTRY BATTALION
DIED Armentieres, France, July 15, 1916 (aged 25 years)
70 games for Carlton, 1912-1915



The Tasmanian-born George Challis was a feted member of the old dark Navy Blues' 1915 premiership team. Recently, almost 100 years after his tragic demise, George was one of ten young men remembered with affection by the respected Melbourne author Ross McMullin, in his recently-released 600-page multi-biography "Farewell, Dear People: Biographies of Australia's Lost Generation".

The following is Ross's assessment of George the man.

George was intelligent, widely admired and very popular. It wasn't just that he was a brilliant player with dazzling skill and pace, and (unusual for the times) superb disposal – it was also the way he played the game. It was said that George always had a smile on his face. He was keen, he wanted to succeed and he wanted to win, but the crowd could tell George enjoyed what he was doing. He was known as 'Cheerful Challis' and 'Genial George'.

Outside footy, George was very able scholastically. He won a scholarship that took him from the tiny Tasmanian hamlet of Cleveland, where he was born and raised, to Launceston where he went to secondary school. So impressed was the school's headmaster with George's academic prowess that he took George on as a teacher, and George was teaching at the time he made for the mainland across Bass Strait en route to Princes Park.

In Melbourne George took up work as an audit clerk with the Railways. As an example of the wide-ranging interests he developed, he also became an enthusiast of the Esperanto Society. This international language was probably not something your average VFL player was into, but it was reported in the papers of the day that he was an activist with the society in Melbourne.

George was recruited to Carlton after the 1911 interstate carnival, when he represented Tasmania and won a medal for his state's best player. The Carlton talent scouts clearly liked what they saw.

GEORGE CHALLIS,
BARRONI PHOTOGRAPH
TIME UNKNOWN
– IMAGE COURTESY
KEN POWELL



The VFL was a big step up, and George started slowly at Carlton in 1912. But he gradually got into his stride, and became a brilliant performer in a succession of games for his new club – the high point being when the team met Essendon on the 13th of July of that year.

Here's what the Essendon coach Jack Worrall (the former Carlton premiership coach), wrote about George's play that day:

"Challis was the best performer on the ground, excelling in every department, the ease and grace of his movements exciting universal admiration. He was the fastest man on the ground, and his beautiful, accurate passing while going at his top was marvellous."

– JACK WORRALL

Injury unfortunately cost George a place in Carlton's 1914 premiership team, but he overcame that setback and, wearing the No.12 now worn by Blaine Boekhorst, was considered amongst his team's best players afield in the 1915 Grand Final victory.

At the end of the 1914 season, after the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, George tried to enlist with his Carlton teammate and close friend Stan McKenzie. But there was an unexpected stumbling block in that while Stan got a tick and went off to war, George was adjudged to be medically unfit because he had one toe slightly overlapping another.

But George kept trying and in the end was accepted. That happened in July 1915 after the Gallipoli landing, when word filtered back of the substantial casualties and the authorities stopped fussing about technicalities. »



CARLTON FOOTBALL CLUB
PREMIERSHIP TEAM 1915



UNIDENTIFIED AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS WALKING ALONG A DUCKBOARD TRACK ON THEIR WAY TO THE FRONT LINE TRENCHES IN NORTHERN FRANCE, JUNE 5, 1916.

George was made a sergeant soon after enlisting. In recognition of his leadership qualities, he was told that officer training was open to him to become a lieutenant. George said no, I've enlisted to fill gaps and the sooner we get over there the better, so he declined that offer and remained a sergeant.

After George arrived in Egypt he became part of the newly established 58th Battalion. This unit was part of the 15th Brigade commanded by the famous Brigadier-General Harold "Pompey" Elliott, who I've previously written about.

It was on July 15, 1916, not long after his unit entered the forward trenches in France, that George Challis was killed.

His death occurred in the lead-up to the notorious battle of Fromelles, the worst 24 hours in Australian history, when there were 5533 Australian casualties in one night. That battle actually started on the 19th, but four days earlier the Germans launched a major raid supported by a severe bombardment, which caused 160 casualties in the 58th Battalion . . . amongst them George, who was blown to bits by a direct hit.



PORTRAIT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL HAROLD EDWARD 'POMPEY' ELLIOTT

George was very much a battalion favourite – so much so that his many admirers decided to gather what was left of him to get him properly buried . . . and they collected his remains in a blanket. He was buried nearby, in the cemetery at Rue Petillon.

News of the death of an officer standing next to George was reported in Australia some weeks before George's own death was confirmed. Remarkably, the news of the death of the man who'd excelled for Carlton in the 1915 Grand Final surfaced just a few days before the 1916 Grand Final – and is why the Carlton players ran out wearing black armbands in acknowledging their mate who'd dominated the play in the preceding year with them.

The news of George's fate caused widespread sadness in both Launceston and Melbourne, together with his birthplace in Cleveland where his family still lived. As the Adelaide Advertiser reported, "Expressions of regret were heard yesterday all over Melbourne when it became known that George Challis had fallen in France".

George's parents Charlie and Margaret were invited to choose an inscription for their boy's grave. In response, they provided the following epitaph: "Tho' death divides, fond memory clings".

Charlie and Margaret never visited George's final resting place, but their son's epitaph remained forever in their thoughts after the government supplied them with graveside photographs.

A memorial stone for George was also erected in Cleveland cemetery, and at the little nearby church there's a memorial to him. If you peer through the window you can see his name there, at the top of the Honour Roll for Cleveland's war dead.

But remembrance of George Challis extended beyond headstones and honour boards. He was fondly recalled extraordinarily often by nostalgic Tasmanians and frustrated Carltonians who lamented his absence as they ruefully looked back to the good old days.

Joe Lyons, who was to become Prime Minister of Australia, knew the Challis family well in his early days as a teacher, and he used to watch George play for Launceston whenever he could.

Years later, on an emotional pilgrimage to Fromelles as Prime Minister, Joe paid his respects at George's grave.

George Challis was 25 years old when he died — the same age as Matthew Freuzer is now. It's very sad that individuals of such calibre as George were lost and were denied the opportunity to lead full and fulfilling lives, which would have enriched the nation immensely.

But it's worse still if we forget them.

PRIVATE *Harold Daniel*

5TH BATTALION
DIED Amiens, France, August 10, 1918 (aged 39 years)
11 games for Carlton, 1901



AUSTRALIAN TROOPS DURING THE
BATTLE OF AMIENS, AUGUST 1918

More than a decade after playing eleven senior games for Carlton in 1901, Harry Daniel enlisted to fight for his country in World War I. Amid heroism and tragedy, he was wounded twice, won a Military Medal for outstanding bravery under fire, and was killed in action only weeks before hostilities ceased in November 1918.

Although he was born in Western Creek, near Ballarat in 1879, Harry grew up on the shores of Port Phillip Bay.

He went to school in Port Melbourne, and learned to love the game of Victorian Rules with 'The Borough,' Port Melbourne's iconic local VFA club. In the year of the Federation of Australia, Daniel crossed to Carlton, and was one of five first-gamers who took to the field for the Blues against Fitzroy at the Brunswick St Oval in the opening round of that season. Harry played in a back pocket while the powerful Maroons won by 42 points.

Eventually, the struggling Blues churned through 21 new players throughout that forgettable season, as the club searched in vain for a combination that could lift the team from the bottom rungs of the VFL ladder. Although he had represented the club 11 times by round 12, Harry was one of the mid-season departures when he decided that he would be happier back at Port Melbourne.

Fourteen years later, 36 year-old Daniel volunteered for active service in World War I. After basic training, he was allocated to a draft of reinforcements for the 5th Battalion, and by April 1916 was enduring the muddy horrors of trench warfare in France. He suffered nephritis (inflammation of the kidneys) and trench feet (caused by constant immersion in cold water) in his first weeks in action, and couldn't return to front line duty until June of the following year. While recuperating, he was given the awful news that his similarly-named nephew, Harry Gordon Daniel, had been killed in action with the 59th Battalion on 19 July, 1916, aged just 19.

In September 1917, the Allied armies launched another offensive against the German lines at Ypres. As always, the Germans were well-prepared however, and their artillery caused enormous casualties as the attackers slogged their way through countryside churned into a quagmire. At the height of this battle, Private Harold Daniel won a Military Medal for sustained bravery under fire, explained here in the official commendation.

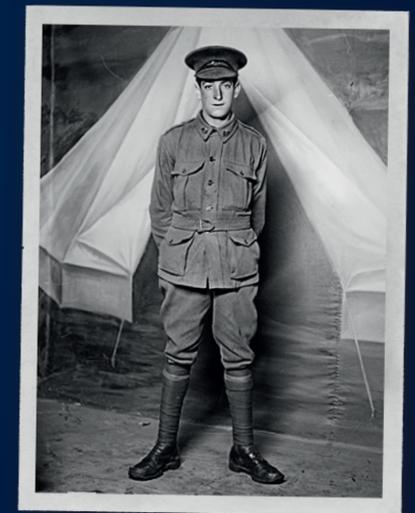
"During the operations east of Ypres on 20 September, 1917, Pte Daniel volunteered with Pte Campbell to carry the wounded back to the rear, and with the latter, performed remarkable work. Notwithstanding the heaviest enemy shelling on the 20th and 21st, he assisted many of the wounded, regardless of personal risk."

But less than a month later, before Harry could be presented with his award, his luck ran out when a burst of machine-gun fire hit him in his left wrist and thigh. The wounds were serious but not fatal, and after treatment at a Canadian field hospital, he was evacuated to England. After six months of surgery and recuperation, he was pronounced fit to return to his unit in March, 1918.

By then, the German Army was being forced back toward its own borders. In a bid to stall for time, and gain a stronger position for the inevitable surrender to come, its high command launched one last big offensive in June. Amid some of the most desperate and close fighting of the entire war, the German attack was eventually repulsed, but at a huge cost to both sides.

Among those who made the supreme sacrifice at that time was Harry Daniel. On August 10, 1918 he was killed by shellfire during the battle of Amiens, and his body was never formally identified. One of more than 10,700 Australian servicemen of the Great War with no known grave, Harry is commemorated with a plaque at the Villers-Bretonneux war cemetery.

— WARREN TAPNER, THE BLUESEUM



PTE HARRY GORDON DANIEL (59TH BATTALION)
NEPHEW OF PTE HAROLD DANIEL (5TH BATTALION)

COMPANY SERGEANT-MAJOR

David Francis Gillespie

59TH BATTALION

DIED Caulfield, Australia, March 27, 1917 (aged 28 years)
Five games for Carlton, 1907-1908



Doug and David each pursued their respective careers – Doug as a gardener, David as a constable of police – and David would follow Doug from the Gillespie home in Gatehouse Street to the Carlton ground on Royal Parade.

When David's father died in 1913, his mother Mary was left to fend for her eight children. A year later, following the outbreak of World War I, Mary was placed in the harrowing position of having to farewell each of her five sons, for all of them answered the call. Sergeant Doug Gillespie, a gardener by profession, was 26 years old when he enlisted in December 1914. Promoted to sergeant in Egypt in March 1916, he was later struck down with illness and transferred to France in June 1917, before securing leave to Australia in December the following year.

All five Gillespie brothers – Doug, Gordon, Robert, William and David – were struck down with serious illness or wounded. David fatally.

As with his twin brother Doug, David was an early volunteer for front line military service. Upon joining the 59th battalion, he soon found himself a part of the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.

Having somehow survived the campaign, the now-promoted Sergeant followed his battalion into the unspeakable horror that was trench warfare on France's Western Front. It was March 1916, and by the following May, David's outstanding leadership qualities were again acknowledged, with a further promotion to the rank of Company Sergeant-Major.

David Gillespie was born in the Royal Melbourne Zoo, where his mother was employed to run the kiosk. He preceded his twin brother David on December 13, 1887, and the pair would later play for Carlton – a feat emulated only by the Hanton twins Hal and Alex, who represented the Blues in the mid-1940s.

Over the next 11 years David's and Doug's parents, Glaswegians James Gillespie and Mary Gallagher, would raise another three sons and three daughters as the clan settled in the Carlton district.

But his all-too-short existence was nearing its tragic end.

On July 19, 1916, David was leading his men in an assault on German positions near Armentieres when an artillery shell exploded close behind him. Shrapnel tore into his lower back and one arm, inflicting grievous injuries.

Miraculously still alive, David was evacuated to a hospital behind the lines and quickly repatriated to England. A series of operations followed, but it was obvious that his spinal cord had been shattered, and his stomach and intestines were irreparably damaged.

Returning to Melbourne aboard the hospital ship Wiltshire on the eve of the New Year – December 31, 1916 – the mortally wounded soldier was slowly stretchered down the gangway. From there he was taken to Caulfield Military Hospital where, despite the best efforts of the medical staff, he succumbed to peritonitis.

David Gillespie died in the Australian General hospital in Caulfield, on March 27, 1917. The Carlton Football Club was well-represented when David was laid to rest with full military honours at Coburg cemetery, and the players wore black armbands in tribute at their next match.

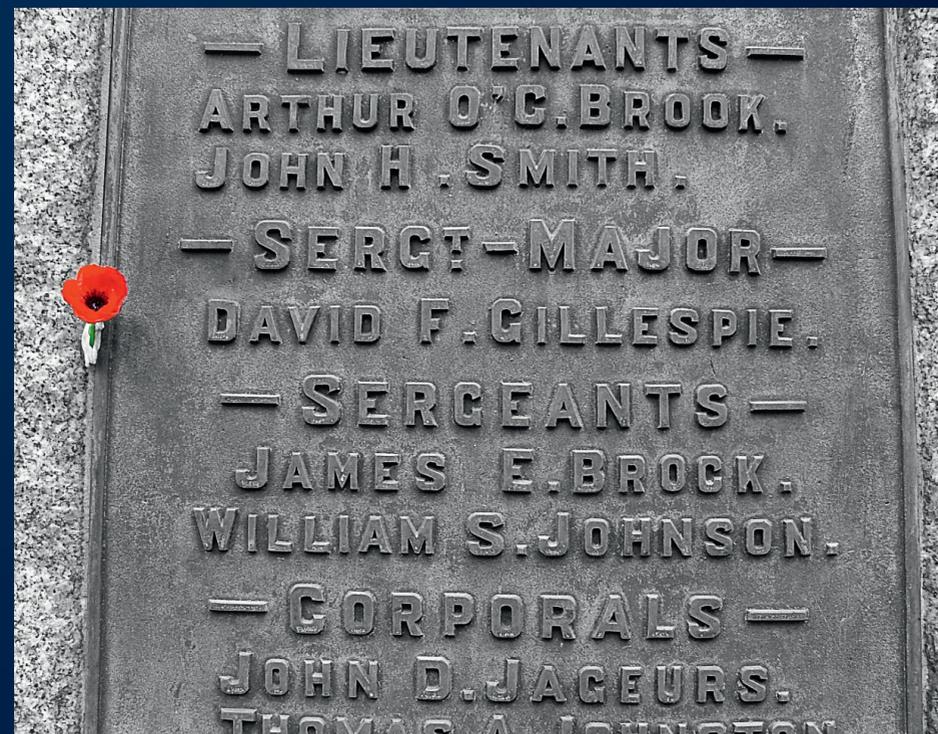
A little under seven years later, David's grieving mother Mary was laid to rest in the same grave.

A touching memorial to David Gillespie (and other soldiers of the district lost in wartime) stands on tranquil ground on Royal Parade, not far from the Carlton ground where he and twin brother Doug once played.

An inscription at the base of that memorial says simply:

*"We died for country,
live ye for it."*

— TONY DE BOLFO



PRIVATE

Albert John Gourlay

WELLINGTON INFANTRY REGIMENT, NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
DIED Surrey, England, November 1, 1918 (aged 37 years)
Three games for Carlton, 1904



The only Carlton player to be killed in action while serving in the armed forces of another country during World War 1, Albert Gourlay played a total of six VFL matches with Melbourne and Carlton during 1903 and 1904.

When his football career voluntarily ended, Albert emigrated to New Zealand, and later enlisted to fight with the NZ Army at the height of the Great War in 1917. In November 1918, he was severely wounded in action in France, and died in hospital only ten days before the ceasefire.

Albert was born at Emerald Hill (South Melbourne) on July 31, 1881. He grew into an athletic young man, and a capable footballer with VFA club West Melbourne. In 1903 he joined Melbourne in the VFL, playing three matches and kicking a solitary goal as the Fuchsias struggled in the early rounds of the VFL's seventh year.

Albert didn't play in a winning side with the Melbourne, and left before the half-way point of the season.

In 1904, Albert found his way to Princes Park, where Carlton coach Jack Worrall had let it be known that he was prepared to give opportunities to any footballer with confidence in his ability. Albert made his debut for Carlton at the Brunswick Street Oval in June, when the fourth-placed Blues took on ladder-leaders Fitzroy in a cracker of a match that eventually went to the Maroons by four points.

Albert celebrated the only win of his VFL career the next week, when Carlton overwhelmed South Melbourne by 24 points at Princes Park. Running off half-back, he combined well with the Blues' other defenders, and held his place in Carlton's team for his third senior match against Geelong.

Albert's career at Carlton wound up impeccably balanced at one win, one loss and one draw.

In the years after Albert's departure from Princes Park, Jack Worrall forged a mighty football team, one destined to win three flags in a row from 1906 to 1908. By then, Albert was far away across the Tasman in New Zealand, where he married Emma Randle in 1909, and settled into his working life as a commercial traveller around the city of Wellington.

In 1910, Albert and his wife Emma became the proud parents of a son, Percy, who would one day be imprisoned as a conscientious objector to the Second World War.

In 1914, Australia and New Zealand joined Great Britain in declaring war on Germany, beginning the bloodiest and most costly war to that point in human history.

Two years into the conflict, Albert heeded the call of his adopted country and signed up to fight with the Wellington Infantry Regiment. For reasons unclear, his age on his military records was given as 43, when in fact he was 36.

He sailed for Europe with a draft of reinforcements in August 1917, and within a matter weeks was pitched into front line action in some of the toughest fighting of the whole war. In late October 1918, Private Gourlay was grievously wounded when his regiment took part in one of the last major offensives.

Albert was evacuated to hospital in England, but died of his wounds on November 1, 1918. Along with many other British Commonwealth soldiers, sailors and airmen, he lies buried at the Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey.

— WARREN TAPNER, THE BLUESEUM

PRIVATE

Thomas Miller McCluskey

37TH BATTALION

DIED Broodseinde, Belgium, October 5, 1917 (aged 27 years)
Four games for Carlton, 1910

Described as 'a redhead who did not know the meaning of fear', Tom 'Tammas' McCluskey played VFL football for both Carlton and Fitzroy, with his fourth and last appearance for the Blues coming in the 1910 Grand Final loss to Collingwood.

Tom later joined Footscray in the VFA, and helped drive the Tricolours to a Premiership in 1914.

After volunteering for military service in World War I, Tom was killed in action less than three weeks after joining his unit on the Western Front.

Tom was born into a large family of ten children in Nick Holman's home town of Kyabram in northern Victoria. His father (Tom senior) farmed and ran a general store in nearby Mooroopna, where the McCluskey brood spent an idyllic childhood. Of proud Scottish stock, Tom senior imbued his six daughters and four sons with a strong work ethic. Combined with the national trait of stubborn determination, this gave all his children a solid foundation for a productive life.

Like most Victorian youngsters of his generation, Tom junior began playing football at state school. By his late teens he was working as a wool classer, and playing impressive senior football in



Shepparton on Saturdays. Sometime in the summer of 1909-10, Tom, (whose family nickname of 'Tammas' would soon find wider usage), was invited to Princes Park by the Carlton Football Club.

He was forced to bide his time and sharpen his skills with Carlton Juniors at first, before being selected on one half-back flank in the Blues' senior team to play Richmond, four days before his 20th birthday in August, 1910.

On a half-back flank, Tom was solid all match and held his place in the team for the last home and away match of the season (a surprise defeat by St Kilda at the Junction Oval).

Tammas McCluskey lined up at half-back flank when Carlton and Collingwood met in the Grand Final on the MCG before a crowd of almost 43,000 fans on Saturday, October 1, 1910.

The Grand Final erupted into open warfare after half time, as Carlton strived to peg back Collingwood's early break. Fists and elbows were thrown like confetti as both teams went as hard at the man as the ball, but eventually Collingwood held on to win its third Premiership by 14 points. Four players – two from each side – were reported and given long suspensions.

That torrid match was Tammas's last for the Blues. For reasons that remain unclear, he left Princes Park that same year and crossed to Fitzroy, where his five matches in 1911 were unremarkable. Only when he switched clubs a third time – to VFA heavyweights Footscray in 1912, did he step back into the football limelight.

Settling into centre half-back for the Tricolours, Tom quickly became one of the real stars of the competition. When Footscray beat North Melbourne by one point in the 1913 VFA Grand Final, he was hailed a western suburbs hero after his best on ground display. In 1914 he captained the club into the finals again, but the looming threat of war in Europe cast a pall over all festivities.

Tom enlisted with the Australian Imperial Forces at Royal Park in November, 1916. After basic training, he was allocated to the 7th Draft of reinforcements of the 3rd Division and sailed for England in February, 1917. More training followed, until September of that year when joined his battalion in time for another major attack by Commonwealth forces on October 4.

On the first day of that offensive, the Australians had gained ground and were consolidating their positions when German artillery launched a fierce barrage on their hard-won territory. Tom was standing in a shell hole with two other men when a shell landed right between them.

Nearby, Private J.B. Timms saw the explosion and ran to help. In a letter home afterward, he described what he saw; 'Tom had been killed instantly. Smith was also dead. One chap was wounded and the other had escaped free except that he got a bit of a shaking up. I had a look at Tom and saw that a large piece of shell had gone right through his heart.'

Tammas McCluskey was buried by his mates in the shell crater where he died. They left a crude cross with his identity disc wired to it to mark his grave, before they resumed their advance under heavy fire the next morning.

Sadly, Tom's remains were never recovered, because later heavy shelling totally destroyed the landscape.

– WARREN TAPNER, THE BLUESEUM



CARLTON FOOTBALL CLUB, 1910
SAMUEL GEORGE GRIMES MASCOT

PRIVATE Fenley John McDonald

7TH BATTALION
DIED Gallipoli, Turkey, April 25, 1915 (aged 23 years)
10 games for Carlton, 1911-1912

On the afternoon of April 25, when the Carlton and St Kilda players observe a minute's silence on the Centenary of the Anzac Day landing, solemnly watching on will be local Brunswick resident Chad Nash.

From the terraces of the stadium in Wellington, just moments before the teams do battle in the historic fourth round, Chad will stand in mute tribute to those who gave their young lives in wartime.

Clasping a precious memorial medallion, Chad's thoughts will inevitably turn to the all-too-short existence of his great uncle - the former Carlton footballer Fenley John McDonald - who was there at Gallipoli on that fateful day.

At dawn on April 25, 1915, Private "Fen" John McDonald, together with members of the 7th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force, was rowed ashore under relentless fire from well-prepared defences.

Somewhere there - perhaps on the water's edge, or on the sparse, bullet-swept slope behind the beach, Fen paid the ultimate price.

He died a month to the day before turning 24 ... and his body was never found.

As one of 4200 Australians who fell in this nation's baptism of fire, Fen has no known grave. But the boy from Nagambie will forever be considered amongst the most revered of Australia's casualties of war, his name having been etched into the ANZAC memorial at Lone Pine.



FENLEY
MCDONALD
IN UNIFORM,
CIRCA 1914



Fen McDonald was a 10-game Carlton player through 1911 and '12, and this club's first player afforded the No.14 as this was the time when guernsey numbers were first introduced. In the 103 years since, the number has been worn by the likes of Rod McLean, Rod Ashman, Michael Sexton and now Liam Jones, who was Fen's age at the time of his drafting to this club.

Recently, Chad paid a sentimental visit to the old Carlton ground where his great uncle once vied for infinitely smaller stakes.

Chad came back with the medallion - the "Dead Man's Penny" as it was so nicknamed - which was presented to the next-of-kin of those who paid the ultimate price in the war to end all wars.

"The reason I brought the penny to the club so it could be present on the anniversary of his death," Nash said.

"This is a real physical token and it's a poignant reminder of Fen and his short life. It's a reminder that Fen was, as a Carlton player, part of a society whose people were asked to lay their lives on the line.

"The Carlton players have a connection with Fen because he was a player. They also have another connection because they, like him, are young.

"And as it happened he died on the day. He died arriving."

The bronze medallion, measuring 120 millimetres in diameter, features an image of Lady Britannia surrounded by two dolphins (representing Britain's sea power) and a lion (representing Britain) standing over a fallen eagle (symbolising Germany).

Inscribed around the outer edge of the medallion are the words 'He died for freedom and honour'. Encased in a frame next to Lady Britannia is the deceased soldier's name (in this instance Fenley John McDonald) with no rank provided to reflect equality in sacrifice.

The plaque was accompanied by a letter from King George V, which stated: "I join with my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War".

More than a million medallions were produced, marking the sacrifice of men and women who died between August 4, 1914 and April 30, 1920. Most medallions were gratefully received, but many were returned by families to the Australian Government in protest for the profound loss of their loved ones.

For Chad, Fen's penny serves as a reminder of a short life unfulfilled.

"It also serves as a reminder that war, in the end, is personal," Chad said.

"If you look at the number, Australia lost an awful lot of people, and of a particular age group also - that's a generation of young people, something in the order of two per cent of the entire population, and it's so very sad."

- TONY DE BOLFO

SERGEANT
Matthew Stanley McKenzie

**1 CLEARING HOSPITAL, AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
DIED Alexandria, Egypt, December 8, 1915 (aged 25)
14 games for Carlton, 1914**

Stan McKenzie spent just one season with Carlton Football Club – the Premiership year of 1914. He strung together 14 consecutive matches for the old dark Navy Blues, before losing his place in the team on the eve of that year's Grand Final.

Twelve months later, Stan died of illness while on active service with the AIF in Egypt.

Born Matthew Stanley McKenzie in Launceston in 1890, Stan was educated at the prestigious Scotch College, where he was considered an average student but an outstanding sportsman.

Stan represented both his school and his state in football, athletics and cricket. After graduating, he embarked on a career in banking, while continuing to play football in the winter and cricket in the summer.



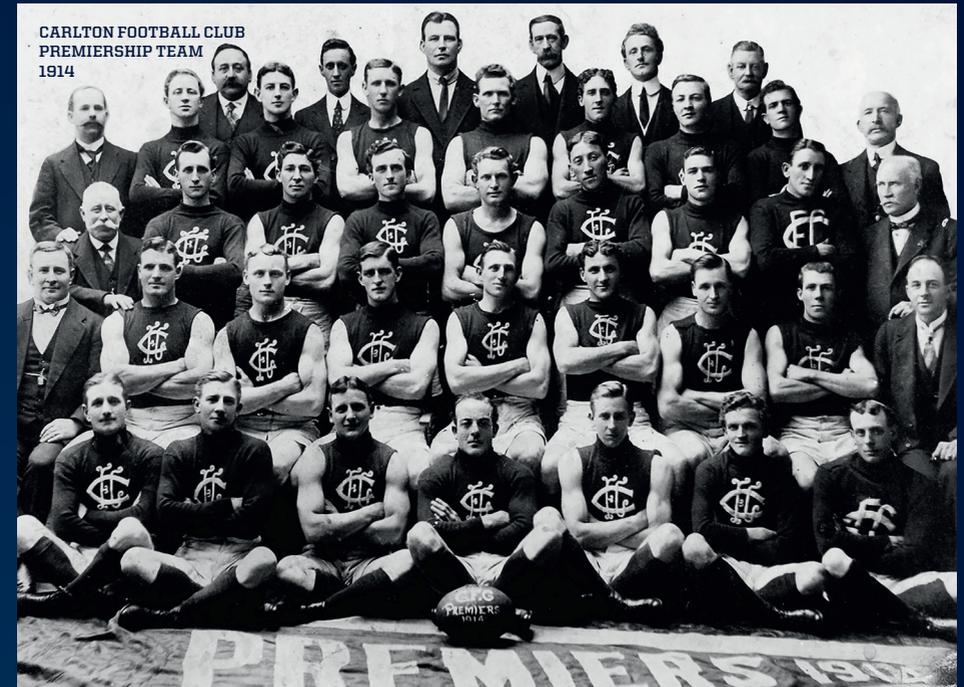
Stan was renowned as a follower for the Launceston Blues in their 1909 and 1913 NTFA Premiership teams, and he also represented Tasmania in the 1911 Carnival in Adelaide. In the summer of 1912-13, Stan accumulated an impressive 59 runs for the Tasmanian cricket team in a match against the touring English Test squad in Launceston.

Stan's credentials attracted many VFL club recruiters to his door, but it was his former Launceston teammate George Challis who eventually convinced him to cross to Carlton.

Stan was handed the number 27 now worn by Dennis Armfield, on the eve of his first senior appearance against Geelong at Corio Oval in June. Named in a forward pocket, he formed part of a daunting attack that included Vin Gardiner at full-forward, George Topping in the other pocket and Challis at half-forward.

Meanwhile, political tensions in Europe were threatening to plunge the region into armed conflict. A strident, ambitious Germany was rattling the economic and political cage erected around it by Great Britain and France, and all three nations were spoiling for a fight. The flashpoint came in August, 1914, when Germany invaded Belgium and World War I began.

Back in Melbourne, as the call to arms in defence of the Empire echoed across the country, Carlton recovered from some early setbacks to finish minor premiers over South Melbourne, Fitzroy and Geelong.



Then the Blues leapt to favouritism for the Premiership with an emphatic 20 point victory over Fitzroy in the first semi-final. All that was then required was for the Blues to beat South Melbourne in the Final.

Alas, that didn't happen. Showers swept across the MCG all match, and the Bloods adapted better to the conditions to beat Carlton by 19 points in a scrappy affair. Had South Melbourne finished as minor premiers, the 1914 Premiership would have headed to the Lake Oval. But The Blues exercised their right under the VFL rules of the day, and challenged South Melbourne to a Grand Final rematch.

Stan McKenzie had been hardly sighted in the Preliminary Final, although he did manage one of Carlton's three goals from a half-forward flank. On the Thursday night prior to the Grand Final, Stan and winger Frank Triplett paid the price of that defeat, and were left out of the team. Alf Baud and George Calwell were named in their place, and Carlton turned the tables in a thriller to take its fourth flag by six points.

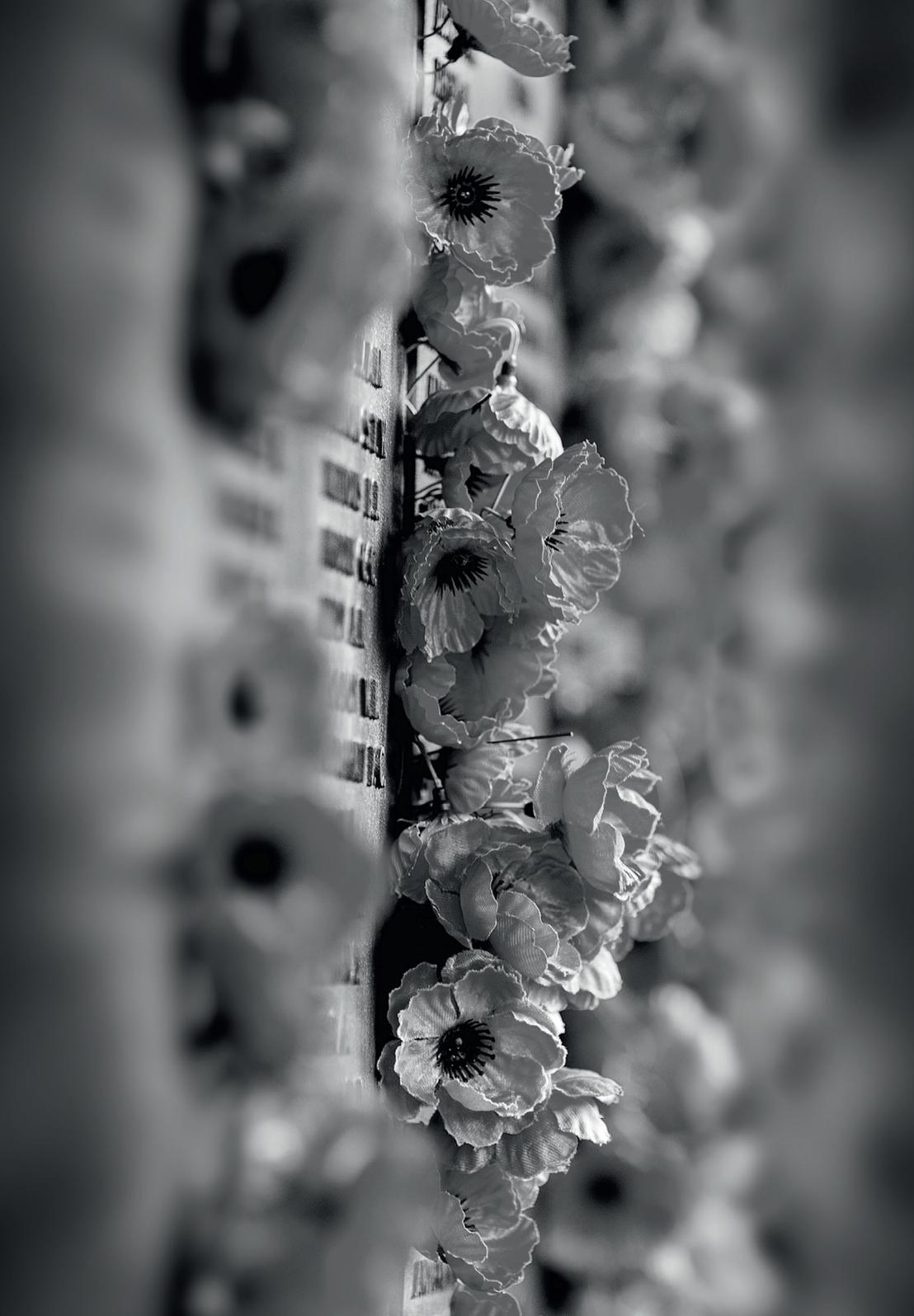
Soon after that bitter-sweet game, Stan enlisted in the First AIF as a medical orderly. He spent some months tending to Australian casualties on the Gallipoli Peninsula, (where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant) and late in 1915 was posted to the 2/2nd Clearing Hospital at Alexandria, Egypt.

While serving there, Stan suffered a severe attack of appendicitis and, although the best possible medical facilities were on hand, he died on board His Majesty's Hospital Ship Gloucester Castle in Alexandria Harbor on December 8, 1915.

Stan was laid to rest in the Chatsby War Memorial Cemetery in Alexandria.

– WARREN TAPNER, THE BLUESEUM





CAPTAIN

Charles Joseph Oliver

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

DIED Melbourne, Victoria, December 29, 1917 (aged 44 years)

One game for Carlton, 1900



A BROAD VIEW OF TENTS AT SEYMOUR ARMY CAMP, 1915

A practising doctor who joined the Australian Army Medical Corps during World War I, Charles Joseph 'Doc' Oliver was one of eleven Carlton footballers to be killed while on military service in that conflict.

Charles died following a tragic mishap outside Seymour army camp, two days after Christmas 1917. Riding a borrowed horse, he was returning to camp from the nearby township when the horse shied and threw him.

Charles fell heavily onto the paved road, and was found unconscious a few minutes later. Quickly taken to his own hospital, he was at first diagnosed with severe concussion, but soon lapsed into a coma and was transferred to the Base Military Hospital in St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

There, specialists found that Charles had a fractured skull. He didn't regain consciousness, and died of a cerebral

haemorrhage on the afternoon of December 29. He was given a military funeral and buried at the Williamstown cemetery two days later.

Seventeen years earlier – as a young medical student – Charles played at centre half-forward in his first and only match for the Carlton Football Club; against Melbourne on the MCG in Round 10, July 1900. His team was beaten by 35 points, but Charles kicked a goal and joined that exclusive list of special young men to have worn the Navy Blue.

The son of Robert and Emily Ann (nee Parkinson) Oliver, Charles was born in Sofala north of Bathurst in New South Wales. He was educated at Melbourne University and after graduation set up practice in Quambatook on the Avoca River. As a footballer, he had first represented Melbourne Juniors and then Carlton Imperials prior to his recruitment to Carlton.

– WARREN TAPNER, *THE BLUESEUM*

PRIVATE
James Robert Pender

14TH BATTALION
DIED Bois Grenier, France, July 2, 1916 (aged 39 years)
15 games for Carlton, 1898

In season 1898, as Carlton struggled amongst the also-rans of the fledgling Victorian Football League, a remarkable situation unfolded when three brothers completed their senior debuts for the Blues in successive weeks.

In May of that year, in round one against South Melbourne, James Robert (Jim) Pender ran out onto Princes Park for his first senior game. Named as a ruck-rover, Jim contributed to an encouraging 17-point win against the Bloods. The next week, against Melbourne at the MCG, Michael joined his brother in the team, playing at half-back in a devastating 57-point loss to the Fuchsias.

For thirty year-old Mick, that was to be his only VFL appearance. He lost his place for the round three match against Essendon at Princes Park – and was replaced by his brother Daniel! Dan was to be more successful than Mick, in that he managed four games for the Blues in total, while the fourth and youngest of the Pender clan; Laurence (Laurie) Pender, rounded out a unique family achievement when he pulled on the blue and white hoops of Geelong Football Club in 1912.

All of the Pender boys were capable footballers, but Jim is remembered more for a singular act of selfless bravery that occurred years after his playing career had ended – in the trenches of the Western Front of northern France during World War 1.

Born in North Melbourne (Hotham) and raised in the open spaces of provincial Geelong, Jim Pender (like each of his brothers) was a star junior with the

Wellington Football Club, and later with Footscray in the VFA, from where he was invited to Carlton for his one and only season in 1898. Afterward, he played three seasons with East Perth in the WANFL, before rounding off his senior career with North Melbourne.

By August 1914, when Great Britain and France declared war on a belligerent Germany, Jim Pender was 37 years-old and living back in Geelong with his wife Minnie and two children James and Mary. When thousands of young Australians rallied to the call to defend the British Empire, Jim was among them. Although his age and marital status entitled him to exemption from active service, he was obviously determined to do what he had always done: to give his best for the team.

He enlisted in July 1915 and after basic training was allocated to the 11th draft of reinforcements for the 14th Battalion. Described on his enlistment papers as being of excellent physique, with blue eyes, brown hair and with a large tattoo of a skipping girl in a ballet costume on his left forearm, Jim joined his battalion at Tel El Kabir in Egypt in March 1916. Barely three months later, he was under fire in the trenches of north-western France.

While training in Egypt, Jim was assigned as batman (or personal assistant) to another Geelong boy, Lieutenant Bob Julian. A born leader, Julian had been promoted through the ranks and seemed destined for higher honours. He and Jim Pender had much in common, and they were soon seen more as two mates than as officer and servant.

UNIDENTIFIED AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS IN THE TRENCHES IN THE BOIS GRENIER SECTOR, JUNE 3, 1916.



On the night of Sunday July 2, 1916, Bob Julian was designated to lead a bombing raid on a sector of German trenches near the village of Bois Grenier, as part of the successful Australian tactic of aggressive patrolling to disrupt the German defences. Leaving Jim to garrison duty, Bob led his men across no-mans-land and was in the process of cutting a way through a thick barbed wire barricade when a German patrol stumbled into them.

A desperate, close-quarters firefight ensued, before the alerted Germans in the trenches began raking the area with heavy machine-gun fire. Three Australians were hit and wounded as they scrambled back to their lines, where it was quickly obvious that Lieutenant Julian wasn't with them. When he was told that his officer was missing, Jim Pender vaulted over the parapet and crawled away into the darkness toward the scene of the action.

He was never seen alive again.

A month or so later, one of Jim's comrades (Private Coleman) testified to a court of enquiry in the field that two of the 14th Battalion stretcher bearers saw Lt. Julian's body entangled in the German wire, with Jim Pender's body close by. Another soldier told of seeing the bodies too, as they were hit again and again by machine-gun fire. Ultimately, both men's remains were not recovered, so their names were added to the list of 54,000 Allied troops with no known grave.

Obviously a chip off the same block, Jim Pender's son James (Jim Junior) also enlisted for active service as soon as possible after he turned 18 on September 27, 1918. However, the war ended less than two months afterward, so he was demobilised before his training was completed.

But, emulating his father at last – in the best possible way – Jim Junior joined the ranks of VFL players in 1936, when he turned out in his solitary VFL match for Geelong.

– WARREN TAPNER, THE BLUESEUM

PRIVATE
William Martin Rogers

10TH MACHINE GUN COMPANY
DIED Rouen, France, September 22, 1918 (aged 25 years)
Three games for Carlton, 1913

William Martin (Willie) Rogers was a defender from Wonthaggi who played three games for Carlton in 1913 after being recruited from Carlton District.

Five years later, and just three weeks before the Armistice was signed in November, 1918, Willie was critically wounded in action, and died the following day at the age of 25.

The story of 'Willie's military service was unknown outside his family until November 2007, when research revealed that a simple typing error had listed him in club records as William H. Rogers. No Australian with that name and initial served in the Great War, so his bravery and sacrifice was unrecognised until the truth was eventually discovered – ninety years after his death.

Willie was born at Woolamai in Gippsland in 1893, the second son of John and Mary Rogers. Four sisters completed a large working-class family. Willie and his older brother (also named John, after his father) were keen footballers who supported their family by leaving school early to take up work in local sawmills. Of the two, Willie showed the most promise on the football field as a dashing defender for Wonthaggi.

In 1913 – soon after the tragic death of his father – Willie journeyed to Princes Park to play VFL football with the Blues. He made his senior debut (wearing Tom Bell's No. 28) against Geelong at Corio Oval on the King's Birthday weekend in June of that year.

Willie played as a follower (second ruckman) and Carlton won by 15 points. He moved to a back pocket for his next match (a 27-point victory over Essendon at Princes Park) while his third and last game was a disappointing 47-point defeat by ladder leaders South Melbourne at the Lake Oval. Soon after that loss, Willie left Carlton and crossed to VFA side Brunswick.

Less than a year later, in August 1914, Europe was plunged headlong into a long and bloody war between Germany and her allies on one side, and France and the British Empire on the other. Australia's men were quick to answer the call to arms, and within months, the first Australian troopships were on their way to Egypt.

Although she was already a widow, Mary Rogers sent both her sons to serve their country. John enlisted in July 1915, and Willie signed on in February of the following year. Willie was trained to be part of a three-man machine-gun team, embarking for England in May 1916. Six weeks later, he was pitched into action for the first time as two massive armies clashed in a series of offensives on France's Western Front.

In October 1916, Willie's ability was recognised with his promotion to Lance Corporal – on the same day as he was wounded for the first time. Hit in his left foot by a shell splinter, he was evacuated to England for treatment, and while recuperating from surgery, was sent to a training unit as an instructor. »



ROGERS IN MILITARY UNIFORM
TIME AND PLACE UNKNOWN
– IMAGE COURTESY ERIN FORBES

WILLIAM ROGERS (CENTRE) CIRCA 1913
- IMAGE COURTESY ERIN FORBES



By June 1918, Willie had recovered enough to be posted back into front line service with the rank of Corporal. Aided by the entry of American troops, the tide of the war had turned in favour of the Allies by September, but losses on both sides were still horrendous.

On the 21st of September 1918, Willie was a temporary Sergeant in charge of a section of three machine-guns. Somehow – perhaps while advancing, or directing his men to a better position, he was caught in the open by enemy troops. They raked his position with their own automatic weapons, and Willie was critically wounded. Although his men recovered him alive, and he was evacuated to the nearest field hospital, Willie's wounds were severe and he died the following day.

He was 25 years old.

Willie Rogers now lies – with many other sons of the Southern Cross – at St. Sever Cemetery extension, outside Rouen.

In a footnote to Willie's story, his brother John also served his country with distinction.

Twice wounded in action himself, he was awarded a Military Medal for 'acts of gallantry and devotion to duty while under fire' at Polygon Wood, during two days of heavy fighting on September 20/21, 1917 - precisely twelve months before his brother's death.

The citation for his award reads; 'Private Rogers was a stretcher-bearer, and although separated from other bearers, did splendid work in tending the wounded when under the enemy barrage. From the time of advance up to the time of relief, this bearer worked continuously. Also when reliefs were being effected, he was of great assistance to the relieving Battalions, both as a guide to their positions and in organizing parties to remove their wounded. This latter work was carried out under heavy enemy fire.'

Happily, John Rogers survived the war. Although wounded in each arm on separate occasions, he was discharged from military service by a grateful nation in March, 1919.

- TONY DE BOLFO

CAPTAIN

Alfred Walter Williamson

14TH BATTALION

DIED Bullecourt, France, April 11, 1917 (aged 23 years)
11 games for Carlton, 1912-1914

Ponder the following account of Alf Williamson and it's hard not to invoke an image of the former Carlton Premiership player Anthony Koutoufides.

"He stood six feet in his socks, and was as handsome as a Greek god. He was the men's ideal of what a man should be, and to know him was to love him."

The above quote, attributed to one of Alf's many Army colleagues, says much for the genuine esteem with which "Lofty" Williamson - fallen soldier, former Carlton (and later Melbourne) footballer and great uncle to Gary Ablett senior - was truly held.

Born in the quaintly-named Gippsland hamlet of Cowwarr in 1893, Alfred Walter Williamson grew into a tall, well-proportioned youngster who earned his nickname during schooldays because he always stood out in a crowd.

Renowned for his football ability, larrikin streak and wry sense of humour, Alf's links to Carlton can be sourced to 1911 when his dominant form for the Melbourne Teachers Training College's 1st XVIII caught the eye of a talent scout.

On May the 18 of the following year, 1912, Alf took to the field for the first time in Navy Blue, for what would prove a typically hard-fought contest with the inner city rival Collingwood.

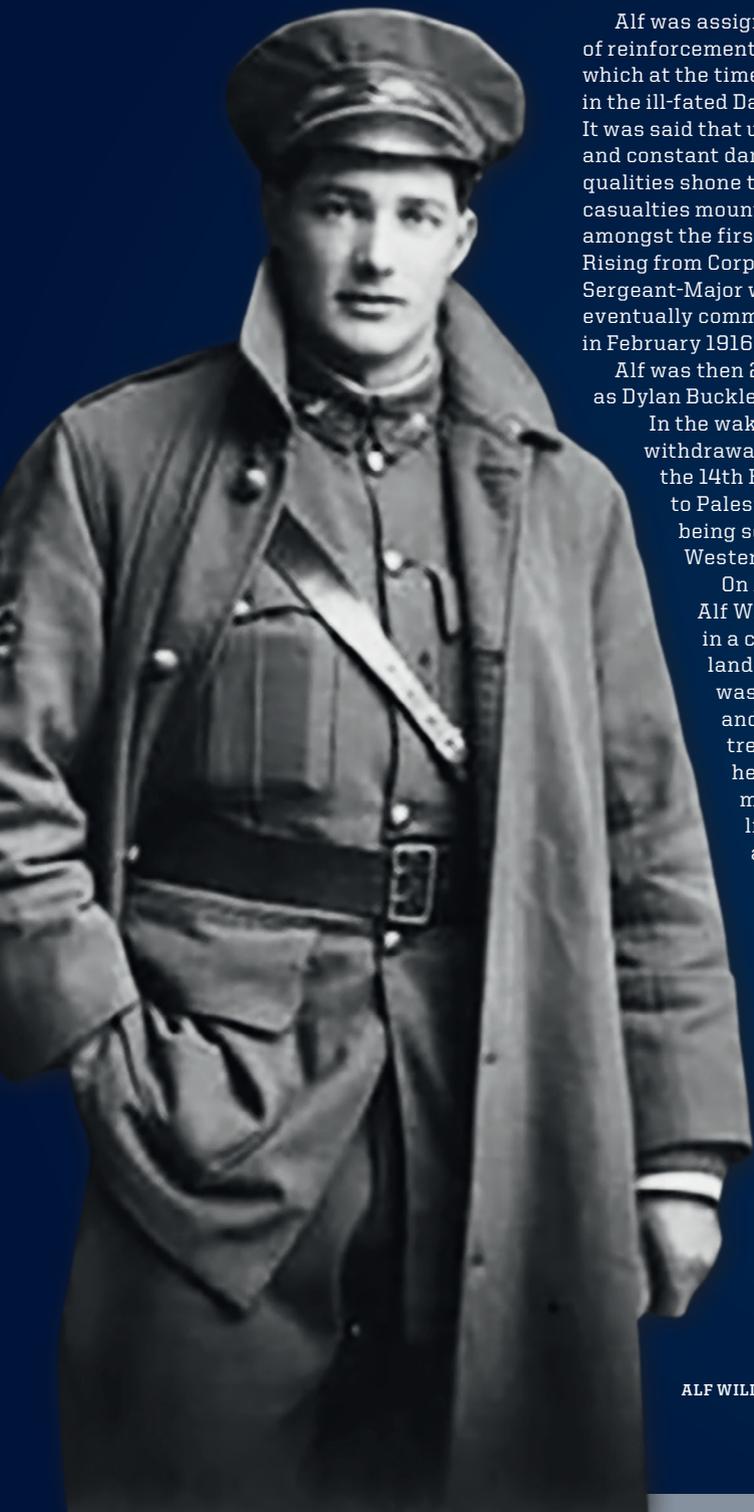
The match was thought to have ended in a draw, but Collingwood was adjudged one-point winners after the goal umpires met midwicket to confirm their scorecards.

Alf found his feet in 1913 as a half-forward of some renown, but a three-week suspension for elbowing an Essendon opponent in the 10th round match would cost him the next three games. He would return for the 14th round and feature in the remaining eight games of the season, during which time he graduated as a teacher and joined the staff of Melbourne High School.

Alf's 11th and final appearance in the No.22 dark Navy Blue guernsey now worn by Jason Tutt came in May of 1914, against the now-defunct University team on the mighty MCG. Carlton steamrolled the students by 12 goals, as events on the other side of the globe were about to plunge Europe into bloody war.

The following month, and for reasons unclear, Alf resolved to pursue his career with the Fuschias. Soon after he copped another three matches for unduly rough play in a contest with St Kilda.

On his return against Richmond, Alf was again reported – and this time suspended for a total of 15 matches – in a Tribunal judgment which would have tragic consequences. For with no prospect of playing senior football in the short-term, Alf responded to the call for volunteers to fight for King and country. »



Alf was assigned to the 8th draft of reinforcements for the 14th Battalion, which at the time was heavily engaged in the ill-fated Dardanelles campaign. It was said that under immense hardship and constant danger at Gallipoli, Alf's qualities shone through. As the Australian casualties mounted, he was always amongst the first in line for promotion. Rising from Corporal to Sergeant to Sergeant-Major within months, he was eventually commissioned in the field in February 1916.

Alf was then 22 then – the same age as Dylan Buckley.

In the wake of the successful withdrawal from ANZAC Cove, the 14th Battalion was deployed to Palestine for respite, before being sent to the trenches of Western France and Belgium.

On April 11, 1917, Captain Alf Williamson led his company in a charge across no man's land at Bullecourt. The attack was initially successful, and the first line of German trenches was captured, but he was last seen urging his men toward the second line of trenches when an artillery barrage rained down right on top of them.

Alf's body was never identified. Accordingly, his name appears with the hundreds of others venerated on the Australian War Memorial at Villers-Brettonneux.

– TONY DE BOLFO

ALF WILLIAMSON (LEFT)

FLIGHT SERGEANT

Wilfred George Atkinson

232 (SPITFIRE) SQUADRON

DIED over Sicily, August 12, 1943 (aged 23)

One game for Carlton, 1942

One of the hundreds of league footballers who volunteered for active service in World War II, Wilf Atkinson played his only game for Carlton shortly before his posting overseas.

Born in Armadale in Melbourne's south-east, Wilf had been recruited from Sandringham after originally turning out for Hampton – and he played alongside future Carlton captain Bob Atkinson to whom he was not related.

In that one appearance – against South Melbourne at Princes Park in the 2nd round of 1942 – Wilf ran out carrying Dylan Buckley's No.7 on his back, and lined up in the centre.

Amidst wartime deprivation of all kinds, the Old Dark Navy Blues unveiled six debutants against South on that Autumn Saturday afternoon, including Jim Knight who, like Wilf, would later lose his life on active service.

Having previously signed on with the RAAF, Wilf underwent basic pilot training at Point Cook through his time at Carlton, and soon after completing his senior debut was posted overseas as part of the Empire Air Training Scheme. The scheme was designed to fast-track young men from the Dominions into competent aircrew.

Wilf was evidently considered an outstanding prospect, and so found himself destined for an elite fighter squadron. In early 1943, he was awarded his pilot's wings and posted to 232 (Spitfire) Squadron, RAF, then based on the island of Malta to support the impending Allied invasion of Sicily.



On August 12, 1943, 23 year-old Flight Sergeant Wilfred George Atkinson was killed when his aircraft was shot down on a mission over the Aegean Sea.

Neither his plane nor his body was ever recovered.

Wilf's sacrifice, like those of the thousands of other Allied airmen killed in the Mediterranean campaign, has not been forgotten by the people of Malta. Near the main harbor of Valetta stands a 15-metre marble column, topped by a gilded sculpture of an eagle.

Dedicated to the brave men of all Allied nations who flew in defence of the island, the inscription reads;

"An island resolute of purpose remembers resolute men."

– WARREN TAPNER, THE BLUESEUM

FLYING OFFICER

James Bell Knight

229 (SPITFIRE) SQUADRON

DIED Goodenough Island, Milne Bay, October 11, 1943 (aged 25)
15 games for Carlton, 1942-'43

In October 1941, through the darkest days of the Second World War, the President of Geelong Football Club confirmed that the club was going into recession until the conflict was over. As such, its players were free to join other clubs in League competition until such time as Geelong rejoined.

Geelong's Best and Fairest award winner of that year was Jim Knight; a strong, tenacious rover/forward recruited from neighboring Geelong Scouts. In two seasons at Corio Oval, Jim had managed 42 games for the healthy return of 54 goals. A fitness fanatic who could run all day, Jim was considered one of Geelong's most popular players, and widely regarded as a future captain.

Jim had already volunteered for active service with the RAAF prior to Geelong's withdrawal. But Carlton's newly-appointed coach Percy Bentley was an admirer of the speedster, and convinced him to keep his football skills up to scratch by pulling on the dark Navy Blue No.11 guernsey (now worn by Robert Warnock) when his military training allowed.

Jim Knight played just 15 games for the Blues in 1942-43, but impressed everyone with his attitude, ethics and football ability. In June 1943, he played his last game for Carlton (against Collingwood at Princes Park) before he was sent to join in the fierce battles against the Japanese in New Guinea.

On October 11, 1943, Flying Officer James Bell Knight was killed when the bombs aboard his Douglas Boston bomber (A28-26) exploded after the aircraft

crashed during take-off from Goodenough Island in Papua New Guinea. F/O Knight's crew - F/Sgt K G Thompson and LAC R F McGlade - survived the crash.

Jim was laid to rest at the Bomana War Cemetery in Port Moresby.

Both football clubs joined Jim's family and the wider community in mourning, and vowed to commemorate him. In 1944, Geelong donated a trophy to Carlton in Jim's name, which was later presented to the Blues' Best and Fairest winner of that year, Bob Chitty.

Geelong also declared that from that same year on, the annual award to the Best & Fairest runner-up would be known as the Jim Knight Memorial Trophy. The then Carlton President KG Luke contributed £10 to be awarded to the trophy winner.

- WARREN TAPNER, THE BLUESEUM



Members of an RAAF representative team gathered for this fascinating photograph for posterity at Punt Road Oval, just moments before the bounce of the ball in a Services match in 1942.

The man balancing the RAAF football between his legs is Flying Officer Jim Knight, the 15-game Carlton player whose life would be tragically taken before the end of '43 when the Douglas Boston bomber he was aboard crashed during take-off from Goodenough Island in Papua New Guinea.

Through the war years, matches between Services teams were sometimes conducted as curtain-raisers to VFL games. One such match, staged before an estimated attendance of 40,000 people at Punt Road on July 12, 1942, involved a Combined Services team and Richmond's VFL team to aid war funds.

A number of accomplished League footballers feature in this photo, including Fitzroy's Norm Hillard (second from the left in the second back row) and Mick Hughson (third from left in the second back row), and South Melbourne's goalkicker extraordinaire Bob Pratt (fourth from left in the second back row).

The legendary Collingwood full-forward Ron Todd also features (fifth from left in the second back row) as does Fitzroy's Len Smith (on Todd's left).

Fitzroy's hard-edged ruckman Frank Curcio is seated with his arms folded in the second row, fourth from the right. Footscray's Jim Thoms sits in the front row second from the right and Collingwood's Alby Pannam sits to Thoms' left.

Other Carlton footballers featured are George Bailey (first from the left in the second back row) and Arthur Sleith (standing to Len Smith's left in the second back row).



LIEUTENANT

James William Park

2/6TH INFANTRY BATTALION

DIED Wau, New Guinea, February 9, 1943 (aged 32)
128 games for Carlton, 1932-'40; Premiership Player, 1938;
Victorian Representative, 1938

For many years at Princes Park, a faded sepia photograph of Jim Park hung from the old brick walls of the players' changerooms deep within the bowels of the Robert Heatley Stand.

The iconic photo, captured by a newspaper "snapper" at Princes Oval in the 1930s, swiftly earned iconic status. Taken from behind, the image features Jim completing an extraordinary chest mark - his left foot planted firmly against the spine of his hapless Melbourne opponent Eric Glass, his right leg extended outward to retain balance.

"We used to look at that photo, in the club, of Jim Park, who was a full-back for Carlton in the time of Rod McLean and those fellows," said the late Jim Clark, this club's two-time Premiership player and Best and Fairest.

"It was a famous photo of him taking a mark with his foot in the back of 'Tarzan' Glass ... it was a famous one, published around the world it was."

— JIM CLARK

Jim Clark made his senior debut with Carlton in 1943 – the same year four of the club's five former players paid with their lives through the course of the Second World War.

One of them was Lieutenant James William "Jim" Park, killed by the invading Japanese in the defence of a strategic Allied airfield in New Guinea.

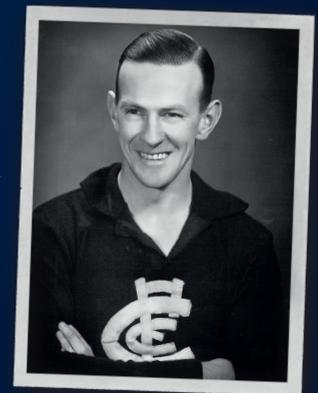
Less than five years previous, in the 1938 Grand Final, Jim had quelled the substantial influence of Collingwood full-forward Ron Todd, and was a revered figure for those who followed the Carlton team, Clark amongst them.

At Carlton, Jim carried the No.26 on his back. That number, now sported by Jayden Foster, was handed to Clark not long after the grim news was received from New Guinea.

"About a month after Jimmy Park was killed in the war, Mr. Bell, the secretary, came over to me in the clubroom and said 'Jim, we're going to take your number off you that you've got and give you Jimmy Park's number,'" Clark recalled.

"Talk about an honour. To be given Jimmy Park's number out of respect for Jimmy Park was an honour that was hard to believe." »

JIM CLARK
(RIGHT)



Jim Park was born in Bendigo, the third son in a large family of four sons and three daughters. His father, Dr. Alexander Park, moved practice to Moonee Ponds in 1919 to provide better education opportunities for his children.

Jim was educated at Melbourne's exclusive Scotch College, and later at Dookie Agricultural College. An outstanding student and a gifted athlete, he soon came to the notice of Carlton's ever-attentive talent scouts.

Jim's career with Carlton opened with his senior debut in the 4th round of 1932, against Hawthorn at Princes Park. Standing just under six feet (183 cm), Jim was a natural defender whose pace, anticipation and spring only enhanced his on-field versatility.

Season '33 saw Jim liner up at centre half-back, before an injury to captain Frank Gill warranted his relocation to the last line of defence. When Gill returned for the Round 17 Melbourne contest, Jim crossed to the pocket and was a revelation there. From then on, the Gill-Park combo was a fixture in the Blues' last line.

In 1938, Jim represented the Victorian state team, then played a pivotal role in Carlton's long-awaited sixth Grand Final victory, keeping the Magpies' champion Todd to just three goals.



CARLTON F.C. — PREMIERS 1938

While studying at Scotch College, Jim had joined the school's Army Cadet Corps. Afterward, he transferred to the Militia (the forerunner to the modern Army Reserve) and continued his involvement throughout his time at Carlton.

In September 1939, when Australia supported Great Britain by declaring war on Germany, Jim held the rank of Lieutenant with the 32nd Infantry Battalion. Like so many other Australians, he did not hesitate to volunteer. He turned out for his last Carlton game against Footscray at Princes Park in the final round of 1940, then enlisted with the 2nd Australian Imperial Force in March the following year.

Jim was confirmed in his rank of Lieutenant, and posted to the 2/6th Infantry Battalion. After completing his final training, he was ferried to the Middle East with his unit. But when the Japanese invaded New Guinea early in 1942, he was amongst the Australian troops recalled and sent straight into the thick of the battle to halt the Japanese drive to Port Moresby.

At Wau, on February 9, 1943, 32 year-old Lieutenant James William Park was killed while leading his men into action.

He left behind his beloved wife Marjorie and infant daughter Joan.

On May 8, 1943, before the commencement of the first match of the season at Princes Park, the Carlton and Richmond teams, their respective club committees and a solemn group of supporters, observed a minute's silence to the memory of a man widely known as 'Gentleman Jim'.

A lone bugler then played the last post.

Later, The Sporting Globe Football Annual best articulated the widespread sorrow of the football community with this tribute;

"Jim Park had the admiration of officials, players and supporters alike at Carlton, for he played the game hard and fairly. He asked no quarter from anyone and he gave none. Yet with all his battling, he was scrupulously fair - a gentleman on and off the field."

It takes courage to step onto a football ground and play the greatest game of all. It takes even more courage to put your life on the line to serve your country.

Jim Park was one such man.

— TONY DE BOLFO



JIM PARK



BILL STEELE & JIM PARK (RIGHT)

TROOPER *Norman Stanley Le Brun*

UNIT 2/10 CAVALRY COMMANDO SQUADRON
DIED Aitape near Lae, New Guinea, November 15, 1944 (aged 36)
Five games for Carlton, 1935

A remarkable football nomad with real ability, Norm Le Brun played with three other VFL clubs (South Melbourne, Essendon and Collingwood) before making his debut for Carlton at the age of 27. Following the declaration of World War II in 1939, Norman volunteered for active service, and was eventually named for this nation's elite Commando force.

Norman Stanley Le Brun was born in the Victorian seaside village of Sorrento in 1908, but his family later moved to inner-suburban Richmond. He grew into a stocky, well-built youngster with football talent and tenacity in equal measure; the product of a harsh childhood in an environment where only the toughest prospered.

Norman's mother boasted a Cape Verdean/Jamaican heritage whilst his father's parents hailed from Jersey and Scotland.

When the Great Depression devastated Australia's economy in 1928, the working class were hardest hit.

Even the most menial of jobs became scarce, so football ability was a valuable asset. Le Brun was playing with Richmond's Reserves team in 1929 and supplementing his meagre match payments (for wins only – losses paid nothing) with occasional brick-laying jobs, when South Melbourne enticed him to the Lake Oval with the promise of senior selection.

Norman spent only one season with the Bloods, during which he found it hard to hold a regular place in their talented team. After three senior matches as a rover/forward, he headed north to Bendigo in 1930, and joined Sandhurst, where he was a sensation from his first match. Fearless and hard at the contest, he was a terrier in the packs and ran all day. He was a worthy joint winner of the League's Best and Fairest that season, sharing the honour with another future Blue in Creswell 'Mickey' Crisp.

By then, someone with links to Windy Hill had passed on the nuggety rover's credentials, and in 1931 he was coaxed back into VFL football.

In 1933, after two seasons and 23 senior appearances for Essendon, Norman was on the move again – this time to Collingwood. Two years at Victoria Park added 19 games and 23 goals to his resume, before he headed off once more and landed at Carlton in 1935.



A PATROL FROM A TROOP, 2/10 COMMANDO SQUADRON, MOVING IN DAWN SUNLIGHT THROUGH A COCONUT GROVE, BABIANG, NEW GUINEA, AUGUST 11, 1944.

The Navy Blues had narrowly missed the finals in 1934, yet held high hopes of doing much better the next year with the added talent and experience of Rod McLean, Cleve Turner and 27 year-old Norman Le Brun, who all joined new coach Frank Maher's team for the opening round of the season against Geelong at Princes Park. But in that cliff-hanger of a match, Geelong's veteran full-forward George Moloney goaled in the dying minutes to deny the Carlton debutants a win.

That defeat was perhaps an omen for Norman, because although Carlton recovered from a bad start to the season and made the finals, he was only selected in four more games all year. Therefore, it wasn't surprising that his VFL career came to an end with him on the move once more, to VFA heavyweights Coburg.

Norman spent two seasons with the Lions, another with South Warrnambool, then in 1940 captained and coached

New South Wales club Ganmain to the South Western District League Premiership. By then, Hitler's Nazis were marching into Poland, and World War II was about to bring death and destruction to the world on a massive scale.

Norm Le Brun was one of the thousands of Australians who signed up to serve for the duration of the war, and underwent basic army training. After passing all the selection processes and undergoing intensive instruction, he joined the 2/10th Commando Squadron in the jungles of New Guinea.

On November 15, 1944, while pursuing retreating Japanese forces through thick jungle, Trooper Le Brun was shot and killed by an enemy sniper concealed among the roots of a large tree.

Australia lost another precious son that day, when a varied, hectic, yet never boring life was ended at the age of 36.

– WARREN TAPNER, THE BLUESEUM



SERGEANT
Griffith Henry Thomson

AA PAY CORPS (BLACKFORCE)
DIED Burma, May 21, 1943 (aged 36)
One game for Carlton, 1930

On the afternoon of Saturday, June 14, 1930 Carlton met North Melbourne at the Arden Street Oval. Two young men made their debut that day; Bill Flynn, a forward from Fitzroy Reserves, and Griffith Henry Thomson, a defender from Ararat. Flynn put in an eye-catching effort with three goals from a half-forward flank in the Blues comfortable victory by 50 points, while Thomson was hardly sighted.

For both, that game was to be their one and only appearance for the Navy Blues, because in the midst of the Great Depression, even three goals in a first-up effort couldn't guarantee a place in the team for the next game.

Henry drifted back to his hometown, and little is known of his circumstances until Australia was plunged into turmoil with the outbreak of World War II in September 1939.

Within days of Australia's declaration of war against Germany, Henry volunteered for overseas service. By then he was 33 years old, unmarried, and working as a stock clerk. The Army obviously valued his office skills over his potential as a front line soldier, because after basic training he was posted to 6th Division Headquarters in the Middle East.

Soon after Japan bombed the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in December 1941, and the Pacific Ocean became the theatre of war closest to the Australian mainland, Henry took up a new posting with the Australian Army Pay Corps at Batavia, on the Indonesian island of Java.

Only a few months later, in February 1942, the Japanese army flooded south to conquer Singapore, Malaya, Hong Kong and Java in quick succession.

More than 2800 Australians were captured on Java, and most of them were destined for the horrors of the Burma Railway – a 420-kilometre track through thick jungle that the Japanese High Command ordered to be built by Allied prisoners.

On the railroad there was little food, clothing or shelter, no medical supplies, and only basic tools. Work started at dawn and ended at dusk. Worse still, squads of Japanese and Korean guards constantly brutalised the weakened prisoners, who were literally worked to death.

Some 13,000 Australian prisoners of war worked on the Burma 'Railway of Death', and almost 2700 died of disease, malnutrition or were simply murdered by their captors.

One of them was Carlton footballer Griffith Henry Thompson, who died beside the line in May 1943 – thirteen months after his capture on Java.

– WARREN TAPNER, *THE BLUESEUM*



You who come after them –
forget not their sacrifice.

Claim as your heritage
a portion of their spirit.

And in peace or in war,
take up their sword of service.

So shall the living and the dead
be for all time.

Joined in one brotherhood.





WORLD WAR I

GEORGE DAVID CHALLIS

HAROLD DANIEL

DAVID FRANCIS GILLESPIE

ALBERT JOHN GOURLAY

THOMAS MILLER MCCLUSKEY

FENLEY JOHN McDONALD

MATTHEW STANLEY MCKENZIE

CHARLES JOSEPH OLIVER

JAMES ROBERT PENDER

WILLIAM MARTIN ROGERS

ALFRED WALTER WILLIAMSON

WORLD WAR II

WILFRED GEORGE ATKINSON

JAMES BELL KNIGHT

JAMES WILLIAM PARK

NORMAN STANLEY LE BRUN

GRIFFITH HENRY THOMSON