

GALLIPOLI CENTENARY WALK

A walk to commemorate the Fitzroy volunteers who served and died in 1915



Anzac Day 1932, Edinburgh Gardens from *The Argus*, 26 April 1932

At the time of World War 1, Fitzroy had a population of 33,000, and from various sources there are records of 3,000 volunteers who either lived here, had next-of-kin here, or who were associated with Fitzroy churches, businesses, associations or sporting clubs. Of these volunteers there were at least 430 deaths on active service during WW1, with over 80 dying during 1915.

A database of the 3000 Fitzroy volunteers is on the Fitzroy History Society website.

The walk (map on the rear cover) begins at the memorials in the Edinburgh Gardens, then passes and pauses at the homes of several of the 1915 casualties, to learn something of their backgrounds and family situations.

Fitzroy History Society
24 May 2015

1. Fitzroy Peace Memorial Rotunda (1925)

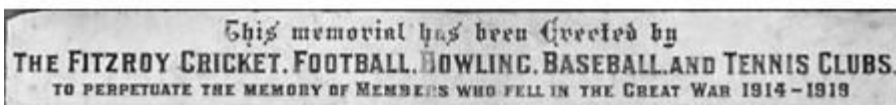


"Fitzroy Peace Memorial, which takes the form of a band rotunda, in Edinburgh Gardens, Fitzroy, was officially opened by the Governor (Lord Stradbroke), accompanied by Lady Stradbroke, on Saturday afternoon. The memorial was erected by the Fitzroy council and the peace year citizens' committee, which each contributed half the cost of £800. The rotunda is a raised, circular structure of stone and concrete, with domed roof, and is surrounded by iron railings. A memorial tablet on the left of the steps leading to it commemorates the fact that 1453 Fitzroy citizens enlisted in the great war, of whom 521 were wounded and 213 killed. To the right of the steps is the citizens' tablet, which contains the

names of members of the 1924-25 Fitzroy city council, the 1918-19 peace year citizens' committee, and the memorial fund sub-committee. Mr. E. Twentyman was the architect, and Mr. J. Oliver the contractor. . . ."

(The Age, 31 Aug 1925, page 11)

2. Fitzroy Sporting Clubs War Memorial (1919)



Fitzroy sporting clubs' war memorial as originally located over a walkway (left) and today (right).

"Sportsmen's Memorial at Fitzroy

On Sunday afternoon Brigadier-General Lloyd in the absence through illness of Brigadier-General H. E. Elliot dedicated a cenotaph erected by the members of the Fitzroy Cricket, Football, Bowling, Tennis and Baseball clubs to perpetuate the memory of members who fell in the war. The Last Post was sounded by the bugle band. . . . An honour board containing the names of those who enlisted for active service from the combined Fitzroy sporting clubs was unveiled by the mayor (Councillor Miller) and Mr. J. W. Billson M. L. A. The names of 38 fallen comrades were engraved on bronze tablets fixed to the pillars of the cenotaph which is close to the entrance to the ground." (The Argus, Monday, 17 Nov 1919, page 5)

3. Private Rupert Cardwell, of 73 St Georges Rd, died of wounds at Gallipoli on 8 Aug 1915.



Thomas Cardwell and Elizabeth, nee Robertson, were married at Sydney in 1888. Thomas died in 1906.

Their children were:
Winifred (born NSW);
Vandria, Nida;

Alaric, born 1888, painter, enlisted Aug 1914, aged 26, returned May 1919.

Rupert, born 1892, painter, enlisted Aug 1914, aged 22, died of wounds Aug 1915, Gallipoli

Percy, born 1895, farm hand, enlisted Jul 1915, aged 20, killed in action Oct 1917, Belgium

Quentin, born 1897, sheetmetal worker, enlisted Jul 1915, aged 18, returned Apr 1918.

Rupert's mother wrote to the Department of Defence explaining that as a widow with two young children to support, she needed a military pension because Rupert was her "sole support". She was awarded one pound per week. She was granted an additional one pound per week following the death of her son Percy in 1917.

4. Lt William (Wilbur) Dartnell, V.C., lived at 23 Newry St, and was killed in action in Kenya on 3 Sep 1915



LIEUTENANT WILBUR DARTNELL, V.C.

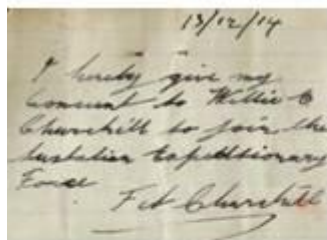


23 Newry St was the 1890 boyhood home of William Dartnell, born 1885, the fifth of ten children of Henry and Rose Dartnell. The Dartnell family also lived at 99 Rose St 1892-1902, and at other locations in Collingwood and Carlton.

William (Wilbur) Dartnell had served at the Boer War (1901-02) and the Zulu rebellion in 1906. In 1907 he married Elizabeth Smyth, and they lived at 41 Birkenhead St, North Fitzroy (1910-11). He was variously employed as a boot salesman, a clerk, and an actor with several theatrical companies.

In 1912 aged 27, Dartnell settled in South Africa. When WWI started, he volunteered for service and sailed for England. In February 1915 he joined the 25th (Frontiersmen) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, which then went to German East Africa. He was killed in action at Kenya on 3 September 1915 and is buried there. For conspicuous bravery he was awarded the Victoria Cross which was presented to his wife by the Governor General in October 1917.

5. Corporal William Churchill, of 110 Westgarth St, was killed in action at Gallipoli on 3 May 1915



13/12/14
I hereby give my
consent to Willie
Churchill to join the
Australia Imperial
Force
Fred Churchill



Benjamin and Florence Churchill had five children - **Frederick** (b. 1886); **Elsie** (b. 1887); **Benjamin** (b. 1893), cordial worker, enlisted Jul 1915, aged 21, returned Mar 1919; **William** (b. 1895), saddler, enlisted Dec 1914, aged 19, killed in action 8 May 1915 at Gallipoli; **Gordon** (b. 1896), brick layer, enlisted Jul 1915, aged 19, returned Mar 1916.

On 3 Nov 1914, Benjamin senior died, and the following month William enlisted with his mother's consent.

William was killed in May 1915, and within two months two of his brothers enlisted. William's will, dated 3 May 1915, bequeathed his estate, of £71-/3, to his 3 brothers, his sister, and his friend Miss Ruth Lang at ABC Café, Geelong.

110 Westgarth St was also the wartime home of Mrs Annie Godbold, wife of Sergeant Albert Godbold. Annie and Albert were married in 1906 and had sons Arthur (1906) and Albert (1913). Their father Albert enlisted in Jun 1916 in the 10th Field Ambulance and returned in May 1919.

6. Private Alexander Macbeth, of 331 Napier St, was killed in action on 29 Nov 1915 at Gallipoli.



Alexander Macbeth (born Tasmania) married Susan Nixon (born Fitzroy) in 1911, and their daughters were Elizabeth (1912) and Alma (1915). The Macbeth family lived at 331 Napier St. Alexander, an ironmonger, enlisted in Mar 1915, embarked two months later, and was killed in action on 29 Nov 1915 at Gallipoli. He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial.

His wife and two young daughters were granted war pensions of £52, £26 and £19.

7. Private William Jones lived at 278 Napier St, and died of wounds at Gallipoli on 10 May 1915.



William Jones was born at Bath, England in 1894, and was educated at Madras, India. In 1913 he arrived in Australia aged 19, and was a confectioner when he enlisted in Aug 1914. His next-of-kin was his father William Jones of the Madras Police. He embarked in Oct 1914, and died of wounds on 10 May 1915 at Gallipoli.

In the event of my death I give the whole of my property & effects to:- Mrs Florenne E. Jones, o/o J.W. Jones, Madras Police, Kumbakonam (Town) Tanjore District, Southern India.

8. Lt Richard Keiran, resident at 114 Greeves St, died of wounds on 9 May 1915 at Gallipoli.



This was the home and 1888 birthplace of Lt Richard Keiran, grain salesman, single, enlisted Aug 1914, aged 25.

He was wounded by shrapnel on 25 Apr. He died of wounds on 9 May 1915, and is buried at Gallipoli.

He was the youngest son of James Keiran and Sarah (nee Goulding), and brother of Eliza (b. 1882), Ellen (b. 1883), Anne (b. 1884), and James (b. 1886). James Keiran was the resident chemist at the adjacent dispensary of the Collingwood & Fitzroy United Friendly Societies.

Richard's will was signed at Cairo, Egypt on 24 Jan 1915. When probate was granted in Jul 1916, his estate was £48/14/-, comprising salary and wages, and the beneficiary was his mother.

9. Private Roy Summersford of 66 St David St, died of wounds on 22 Oct 1915 at Gallipoli.



Alfred Summersford married Sarah, nee Collins, in 1887 and their four daughters and four sons included:

- William** (b. 1892), hairdresser, enlisted Jan 1915, single, aged 23, returned Sep 1915;
- Alfred** (b. 1894), baker, enlisted Apr 1915, single, aged 21, killed in action Apr 1917, France;
- Roy** (b. 1895), confectioner, enlisted Feb 1915, single, aged 19, died of wounds 22 Oct 1915, at Gallipoli;
- Arthur** (b. 1902).

10. Private Joseph Cotter (and his family) lived at 40 Condell St. He was killed in action at Gallipoli on 8 May 1915.



Michael Cotter married Rachel Cohen in 1880, and over 1880 to 1900 fifteen children were born. Eight of the children died in infancy or childhood, leaving **Elizabeth** (b. 1883), **Joseph** (b. 1884), **Michael** (b. 1889), **Thomas George** (b. 1890), **Sarah Lillian** (b. 1892), **Rachel Dorothy** (b. 1895), and **Herbert Claude** (b 1899).

Joseph Cotter, labourer, single, enlisted in Aug 1914, aged 30. He was killed in action at Gallipoli on 8 May 1915.

Rachel's husband had deserted her in 1900. Joseph's probate records indicate his verbal will to his mother Rachel was:

"If I go to the front and get bowled over everything I have is for you." His estate, 'military pay due', totalled £19/3/6.

Thomas Cotter, labourer, single, enlisted in Sep 1914, aged 24. He returned to Australia in Oct 1917.

Opposite stood 37 Condell St, the home of the father of **Private Peter Killen** who was killed in action on 21 Aug 1915.

11. Sister Myrtle Elizabeth Wilson



Myrtle Elizabeth Wilson was born at Fitzroy in 1877 and her family had moved to Bundaberg, Queensland by 1892. In Apr 1915 she was one of the 130 nurses who sailed to England and joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. She died of disease on 23 December 1915, aged 36, as a war casualty, and she is buried at Wimereux Communal Cemetery (about 5km north of Boulogne, France).

Myrtle Wilson's girlhood homes were at 25 Moor St, Fitzroy (1878-79), 58 Bell St, Fitzroy (1880-82), and Queens Parade, North Fitzroy (1883-). In 1883 her father Andrew Wilson and his brother erected the three storey drapery warehouse still standing at 145 Brunswick St.

Sister Myrtle Wilson was one of 12 nurses from World War 1 who are honoured in the memorial structure opposite the Bundaberg Hospital at Bundaberg, Queensland. Sister May Wilson or Sister Lilian Wilson on the same memorial may have been Myrtle's sister, Lilian May Wilson, also born at Fitzroy, in 1878, one year after Myrtle's birth.

12. Fitzroy Town Hall Honour Boards (1922)



Fitzroy's Municipal Roll of Honour was initiated by the Fitzroy City Council on 17 May 1914. Nominations to the Roll required verification by two ratepayers that the nominee had resided in Fitzroy prior to enlisting.

By Dec 1919, over 1000 nominations had been received. On 20 Aug 1922 the black-wood Honour Boards were unveiled. "... the mayor (Councillor J. A. Boell) said that the roll of those who enlisted from Fitzroy was an object worthy of the greatest reverence and pride. Though 1,800 names figured on it, that number was, unfortunately, far from complete, the utmost difficulty having been experienced in collecting the names. The full number of the men of Fitzroy who served in the war was estimated at about 2,300, of whom 300 had lost their lives. Ever since the war municipal positions in Fitzroy had been filled by returned soldiers. (Cheers.) In fact, since April, the council had employed more than 30 returned men."

(The Argus, Monday, 21 Aug 1922, page 9)



Locations on the walk

- 1 Peace Memorial Rotunda
- 2 Sportsmen's memorial arbour
- 3 73 St Georges Rd - home of Rupert Cardwell
- 4 23 Newry St - boyhood home of William Dartnell, V.C.
- 5 110 Westgarth St - home of William Churchill
- 6 331 Napier St - home of Alexander Macbeth
- 7 278 Napier St - home of William Jones
- 8 114 Greeves St - home of Richard Keiran
- 9 66 St David St - home of Henry Roy Summersford
- 10 40 Condell St - home of Joseph Cotter

Further information on Fitzroy's WW1 volunteers

Database on Fitzroy WW1 Volunteers: <http://www.fitzroyhistorysociety.org.au/>
 Australian Anzacs in the Great War 1914-1918: <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au>
 National Archives of Australia: <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/index.aspx>
 Newspaper sources: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/search?adv=y>