

4: The 'Old Prof' and the Tunnellers

Tannatt William Edgeworth David KBE DSO MIDx3 (CMG pre War)
and the Australian Tunnelling Companies

By David S Wilkins

**'Mawson are you busy
right now?'** asked Professor
Edgeworth David in a carefully
modulated voice.



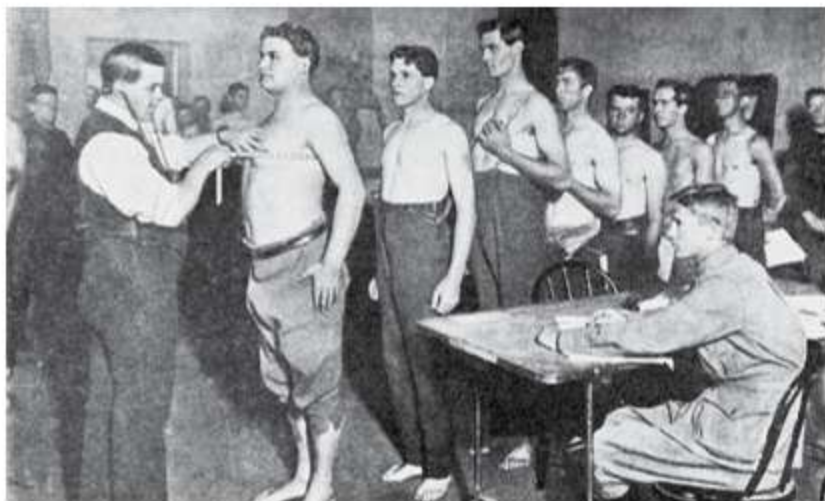
Edgeworth David
with Douglas Mawson
to the rescue.
Sketch Sydney Mail
11 May 1921.

9: Medical Issues of the War Encountered by Ku-ring-gai Doctors and Nurses

By Evelyn Wyatt

When the men and women of Ku-ring-gai offered their services to the Australian Imperial Force they were only accepted if they were found to be medically fit and assessed as capable of meeting the demands placed upon them.

They represented the healthiest of Australian youth. But how did they fare during their service from a medical point of view?



That the records survive is a great tribute to diligent documentation that was recorded under extraordinarily difficult circumstances, and to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) and the National Archives of Australia (NAA) for their collection, preservation and digitisation, and for providing access for the general public.

In addition, we have the official history by Colonel Arthur Gordon Butler DSO VD BA MB ChB (Camb) who was commissioned to write *The Australian Army Medical Services in the War of 1914-1918*, the result being three volumes, the first published in 1930.

A small study by the author of over 1,030 of our 1,750 Ku-ring-gai volunteers has tried to elicit some answers to their outcome. Many men and women served with British forces or the Red Cross and their service records are not readily available. However our Australian records offer some insight into major medical

problems encountered by the troops and which the Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC) was called upon to diagnose, treat and if possible, prevent.

The whole of the AIF is said to have been composed mainly of the 'working classes from low income urban wage earners'. The demographics in Ku-ring-gai differ, revealing that about 6% of those enlisting classed themselves as labourers and unskilled farm hands. Clerks comprised 13% as did farm managers/overseers and skilled tradesmen. Over 20% were qualified in the professions or were university students. Only seven men of the 1,030 had no occupation and some of these were of 'independent means'. The rest had a variety of occupations - shopkeepers and salesmen, telegraph, railway and tram operators, and motor drivers. Some had rather unusual occupations including a professional acrobat, Hansard reporter and an artificial limb maker.

Recruits being examined at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, February 1915. Photograph AWM A03616.



The casket designed by Ronald Richardson which contained the Roll of Honour of the names of the men of the Royal Australian Engineers who lost their lives in the 1914-18 War. It is believed to have been installed in the Kitchener Chapel, St Pauls Cathedral, London, England. Photograph Zery Edwards.

Ronald resumed private practice and also lectured at the University of Sydney in building construction. Many of his residential projects were in Ku-ring-gai. *Chalfont* remained the Richardson family home until his death in 1972. His two sons, Peter Charles Richardson and Ronald Trevor Richardson both served in the armed forces, Peter in the Army and Ronald in the RAN.

RICKARD, Arthur Lancelot, MC, MID x2
(later DSO, ED, MID x2)

• Wahroonga War Memorial

Arthur 'Lance' Rickard was a courageous, highly decorated soldier who fought in both World Wars. The eldest of six children, Lance was born in Bondi, Sydney on 18 September 1895 to real estate developer Arthur Rickard (1868-1948) and Annie Eliza, née Addy. He was educated at Barker College, Hornsby, where he shone at rugby union, athletics and tennis, and was a prefect. In his third straight year in the 1st Rugby XV as half back he was team captain in 1913 and awarded an honour cap. Lance spent a year in the cadets, another six months in the University Scouts, six months in the 19th Infantry and a year in the 12th Battery of the 4th Brigade Field Artillery (both militia) and was studying accountancy in 1914, in the office of accountant Mr Albert Borchard, when he was commissioned on 16 April as a 2nd Lieutenant. Five months later on 3 September he enlisted in the AIF, he retained his rank of 2nd Lieutenant

and was allotted to 10th Reinforcements, 3rd Field Artillery Brigade (FAB). At the time he was aged 20 years, unmarried and living in the recently purchased family mansion, *Berith Park* at 19 Billyard Avenue, Wahroonga. He named his father as next of kin. The following month he embarked on the *Hororato* from Melbourne, Victoria to arrive at Suez, Egypt on 27 October 1915. In December he was promoted to Lieutenant which was followed over the next few months by a succession of short attachments to different posts including with the 7th Battery 3rd FAB and 4th Divisional Artillery both in Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt, then 24th Battery 3rd FAB and after deploying to France in April, he was back with 7th Battery in May 1916. In December 1916 Lieutenant Rickard was awarded the Military Cross, for carrying out a hazardous reconnaissance in the Somme Valley. In the following April he was Mentioned in Despatches, possibly arising from the battles at Hermies or Bullecourt. In July 1917 he was promoted to Captain and transferred to 12th FAB (then referred to as 12th Army Brigade). Later that year he was severely gassed and hospitalised.

The unit war diaries record that on 10 April 1918 during the German spring offensive near Calonne, France, a call was made to nearby Australian artillery officers at the River Clarence to lead some infantry remnants of the British 51st Division which had become very short of officers and NCOs. Captain Lance Rickard of the 45th Battery and a Lieutenant volunteered and reorganised some of the scattered Black

World War I Glossary

By David S Wilkins

Any definition of slang terms shown in *italics* has been extracted from *Aussie*, the Australian Soldiers' Magazine, printed in the field during the War.

Australian Comforts Fund.
Photograph AWM E00051.

Ack Ack: Term used to describe anti-aircraft fire.

Archie: *A person who aims high and is not discouraged by daily failures.*

Adrian helmet: French regulation helmet named after its designer.

Advanced Dressing Station: The most advanced medical post behind the unit's Regimental Aid Post.

Advanced Dressing Station,
Hill 60, Belgium.
Photograph State Library NSW.



Alphabet Company: See Australian Electrical & Mechanical Mining & Boring Company in separate appendix, 'Australian Military Structure'.

Ammunition Park: See separate appendix, 'Australian Military Structure'.

ANZAC: Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, a name first used at Gallipoli in 1915, but eventually it came to be used as slang to describe any Australian or New Zealand soldiers – the Anzacs. Anzac or Anzac Cove is the name given to where the Anzac troops landed on the Gallipoli coast on 25 April 1915. I ANZAC and II ANZAC were the designators for the 1st and 2nd Corps of Anzac troops.

Armbilet: Cloth band worn round the arm to identify a particular duty or function.

Army: An army is a military fighting force, equipped primarily for land warfare, comprising two or more Corps and commanded by a General. When the Australian commitment to the war extended to two Anzac corps it was not referred to as an Army but retained the name AIF.

Artillery: See separate appendix, 'Australian Military Structure'.

Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS): See separate appendix, 'Australian Military Structure'.



Australian Comforts Fund (ACF): This was raised on 4 August 1916 and became a major voluntary organisation with similar activities to the Red Cross but focused on fit soldiers as distinct from invalids. Accordingly, the ACF provided benefits in the form of clothing, food, hot drinks, books, tobacco etc and entertainment to troops who were well and active in the field.

Australian Electrical & Mechanical Mining & Boring Company: See separate appendix, 'Australian Military Structure'.

Australian Flying Corps (AFC): See separate appendix, 'Australian Military Structure'.

Australian Imperial Force (AIF): When war was declared and Australia pledged its support it was decided that an expeditionary force be raised separate from the existing Australian Army. It was an all volunteer force. Following the Gallipoli campaign the AIF was reorganised and expanded from two to five infantry divisions, which constituted I ANZAC and II ANZAC Corps. The AIF was disbanded on 1 April 1921. Today it is referred to as 1st AIF to distinguish it from the 2nd AIF which was raised during World War II.

Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF): See separate appendix, 'Australian Military Structure'.

Australian Red Cross Society: This Australia-wide charitable body had over 2,200 branches employing over 100,000 volunteer women, men and boys during World War I. It also had many depots in several overseas countries including one that moved with the advancing troops in France. The Red Cross distributed money and materials including clothing, linen, food, livestock, tobacco, books and magazines for the sick and wounded troops abroad and those repatriated to Australia. It set up hospitals, rest camps and workshops, as well as providing entertainment for the invalided soldiers, sailors and airmen. It established a Missing Inquiry Bureau to investigate the whereabouts and fate of missing soldiers and to keep families informed. A gratuitous Advice Bureau assisted soldiers with legal aspects including the preparation of wills and powers of attorney as well as advising war widows of their rights under the military legislation.

Australian Tunnelling Companies (ATC): See separate appendix, 'Australian Military Structure'.

Awards: See separate appendix, 'Service, Honour and Commemoration'.