

Hill Top Public School

ANZAC Commemoration 2020

Hill Top Public School wishes to acknowledge the family photographs and treasured family memories shared through our ANZAC Commemoration.

This document further details the family stories and photographs that were not featured into our ANZAC Commemoration video due to a space restriction.

Our video can be viewed on this link: Hill Top PS ANZAC Commemoration

Hunter and Lawson Rapa's Ancestors

There were many relatives of Hunter and Lawson that served in the defence forces. These pictures are of their paternal great grandfather who they knew as Great Poppa Norm.



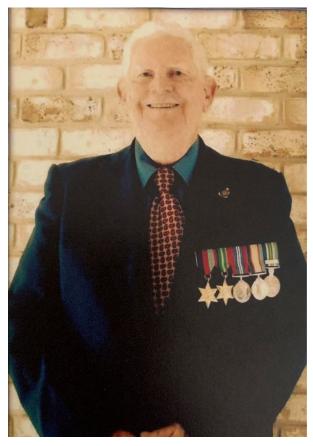
Norman Gordon was born on 1 March 1924. As a member of the armed services he rose to the rank of Corporal (Special Forces)

He enlisted at age 18 and was discharged at 22 and was in the Army from 31/3/42 to 28/2/43.

He was re-deployed to the Airforce from 1/3/43 to 22/7/46).

He served in World War II New Guinea (Bougainville, Rabaul and Fauro Island) from 18/8/45 to 2/7/46.

Hunter and Lawson's Great Grandmother June Gordon was also in the armed forces, serving as a decoder during World War II.



Oliver Stratford's Ancestor

This is Oliver George James, for whom Oliver James Stratford was named. He was a Lighthorseman in World War I.



Samantha, William and Elliza Gardner's Great, Great Grandfather

Private Henry (Harry) James McLaren NX 4240 2/1 Australian Machine Gun Battalion, enlisted 20 October 1939. Harry served in England, Greece, Crete, Egypt and New Guinea. It was while stationed at Wau, New Guinea that he wrote the following poem which was published in the Sydney papers Friday 11 June 1943. Harry was prompted to write this poem when transport workers at the Sydney wharfs went on strike and refused to load ships headed for New Guinea with food and ammunition for the soldiers fighting there. Below is an excerpt from the newspaper article in which the poem was published in 1943.



A PROTEST

The following comes from Pte Harry McLaren in New Guinea. He enlisted in 1939 and has been to England, Greece, Crete and Egypt. He has been in New Guinea for 9 months and is still in the midst of the fighting.

He writes feelingly THE SOLDIER TO THE STRIKER

There's a section of us camping on a ridge just west of Wau, In dugouts which we call the "Virgin's Rest".

And though at times we grumble and the grub is not the best, You can't compare us with the strikers anyhow.

The boys are working on the road and helping at the 'drome, Dreaming of the happy day they board the plane for home.

For in the days of grief and strain each man must pull his weight, And not be like the wharfies and "dingo" on his mate.

Sometimes we do other jobs such as fighting Japs, But each and every one of us hops in and cares not for the raps.

For if we were like the men back home and downed our guns in strike, Who would protect their wifes and kids from the Nipponese at night. No if they won't work to ship us food and guns and ammo, too, The best place for the bastards is eating Army stew. Tho' I suppose even then they would rather run than fight, For they wouldn't have their unions to impress Tojo with their might. So take a tip you strikers all, get it firmly in your brain, If you wouldn't see the Zeros, see the bullets hit and maim. Forget your petty squabbles, your silly stupid bluff, Sometimes think of the boys up here and hop in and do your stuff.

Harry spent 1177 days fighting outside of Australia.

Mrs Capps' Grandfather - Joseph Edward Bond



Joseph Edward Bond holding his daughter

Mrs Capps' grandfather Joseph Edward Bond. He is pictured with Mrs Capps' mother. He left his station to visit the newly born baby, Mrs Capps' mother.

Mr Bond fought in World War II in New Guinea. He worked alongside the local community to prevent the Japanese forces from capturing New Guinea and moving to invade Australia.



Bond on the right, with 2 soldiers



Bond in the camp in New Guinea



Camp for the Australian soldiers in New Guinea

Mrs Griffiths' Ancestor – Edward Isaac Peachey



Edward Isaac Peachey was born in Prickwillow Ely Cambridgshire UK. He immigrated to Australia and when WW1 broke out joined the 4th Lighthorse Brigade, Ammunition Reserve on 5th March 1915. He shipped out from Sydney on 22nd June 1915 to Africa.

Peachey was transferred to the 2nd transport division on the front in Europe where he drove a team of horses and cart bringing provisions to the front line and returning with wounded soldiers. Edward rose to the rank of Transport Sargeant. He survived the war and returned to Australia in 1919. He later married and settled in West Ryde Sydney.

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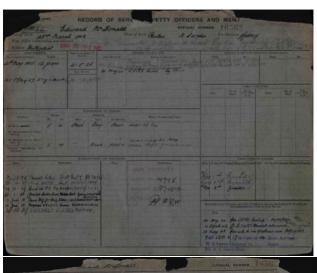
Shipping notice for Edward Isaac Peachey

Mrs Griffiths' Ancestor - Edward McDonald Hall

Edward McDonald Hall was born in Parkes NSW. He joined The Royal Australian Navy in 1925. When World War II broke out he was deployed.

Edward was married with 2 daughters. He served on the HMAS Sydney in the Middle East and protecting Australian waters.

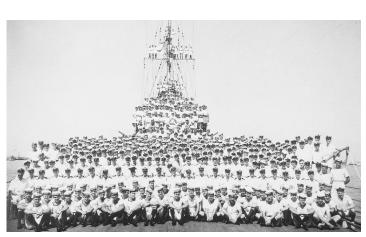
Edward was injured in battle and spent some time in hospital in Darwin. It was after this battle that the Sydney was sunk off the West Coast of Australia. Edward rose to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He survived the war and received a medical discharge at the conclusion of the war, from his war injuries.





Service record of Edward McDonald Hall





This is the 645 strong ship's company following the action against the Bartolomeo Colleoni in July 1940