RICHARDSON, James
HART, Thomas
DOGGETT, William John
BUCKERIDGE, Paul Wilkinson
BUCKERIDGE, Horace
HILL, George Faunson

HARRISON, James
CLAYTON, Wallace
BARROW, Samuel James
DOGGETT, Charles Dudley
BRUCE, William Rufus
HASSELL, William (Donald Hassell?)

**bethany** FUNERAL HOME

**Albany History Collection (upstairs at the Library)**
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### 8. 186, Pte T HART, 11 Bn    048 S 249 E

Enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on 9th September 1914, Thomas Hart was posted to the 11th Battalion, the first battalion raised of West Australian recruits and the first to encamp at Blackboy Hill, the army training camp at Helena Vale opening in August 1914.

Born in Oldham, Lancashire, Tom emigrated to Australia around 1910. Similarly, his older brother Joseph also emigrated to WA, working as a fettler with the Western Australian Government Railways. Enlisting in the AIF in 1916, Joseph was posted to the 51st Battalion. He was killed in action near Corbie on the Somme on 5th April, 1918.

Tom Hart embarked at Fremantle aboard HMAT *Ascanius* A11, the troopship leaving the city port with HMAT *Medic* A7 to join 36 other transports of the first convoy off the coast of WA. Training in Egypt, he made his way to the Dardanelles in preparation for the Gallipoli landings. Incapacitated by an exploding shell on 25th April he was evacuated to the hospital ship *Galeka*, his eyesight permanently damaged from the trauma.

Returning to England, Thomas was employed on the Garrison Military Police where he was promoted to sergeant. Marrying Bessie Louisa Hardy in his English hometown in July 1917, he returned to Australia where he was discharged at the end of the year. It was almost two years before he saw Bessie again, meeting their young son Jack for the first time in October 1919.

Working for five months on railway construction in the south west, Tom took up a land grant under the soldier's settlement scheme, farming at Jingalup, south west of Kojonup for almost ten years. Moves to Perth, Dwellingup and Albany saw Tom employed in the area of carpentry and construction, his vision remaining irreparably impaired.

### 9. 1167, L/Cpl W J DOGGETT, 10 LHR    032 S 249 E

A veteran of the Boer War, William Doggett was no stranger to military service, his experiences in three conflicts spanning a period of more than forty years. A trooper with the New Zealand Mounted Rifles, William served on the Transvaal with the 8th Contingent of the 1st New Zealand Brigade, drafted at Newcastle, Natal in March 1902 at the age of 19. Enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force in 1915, William was posted to the 10th Light Horse Regiment. His younger brother (4) L/Cpl Charles Dudley Doggett, a farmer at Grassmere, also enlisted in the AIF in 1915 and was posted to the 32nd Battalion. Charles' gravesite is number 4 on this walk.

Born in Albany to Charles Doggett and Isabel Cooper, William was employed at the Southern Brewery Bottling Coy, becoming a butcher's apprentice prior to his service in South Africa. Returning to Albany, William travelled to Katanning, working for Harry Bowker, a baker and confectioner and John Squires as a blacksmith, actively involving himself in the formation of a Drum and Fife band in the town in 1903.

Volunteering again for service with the outbreak of war in Europe, William left Fremantle in 1915 with the 8th Reinforcements of the 10 LHR. He served on Gallipoli and in Palestine before returning to Australia in 1919. In 1940 at the age of 54, he joined up again and was posted to a Garrison unit. It was during this time that he sustained critical head injuries when accidentally struck by a military vehicle. Three months later on sick leave in Albany, he collapsed and died, his funeral marked with full military honours.

### 10. 3591, Pte H BUCKERIDGE, 44 Bn    019 S 260 E
### 11. 3590, Pte P W BUCKERIDGE, 44 Bn    017 S 263 E

Almost 45 years of age when he enlisted, Private Horace Buckeridge and his younger brother, Paul [40], were posted to the West Australian 44th Battalion, the 9th Reinforcements leaving Albany on 24th July, 1917 aboard HMAT Port Melbourne.

Spending three months in England with training battalions, the brothers proceeded to France where they were taken on strength of the 44th Battalion in January 1918. Wounded in action near Rouen, Horace returned briefly to the field but ongoing debility forced his return to Australia in August 1918. Paul was also wounded in action, convalescing in England until his return to Australia in December 1918.

Horace Buckeridge had established himself in the drapery trade in England before emigrating to Western Australia in 1908 with brother Paul. Settling in Torbay, Horace pursued interests in commerce and agriculture, taking an active role in the local community. He managed the Torbay Junction store, held honorary positions in the Eastwood-Torbay District Progress Association, was prominent in local sporting and community organisations and was known to have a penchant for fine literature. Horace was committed to the development and expansion of the district, active in fundraising activities for the construction of an agricultural hall in 1909. His efforts were realised with the opening of this vital community hub in 1912. He moved to Cranbrook as postmaster in 1924 then Cuballing in 1934.

Paul Wilkinson Buckeridge was equally committed to the Torbay community, involving himself with efforts to construct a new Torbay Hall after the war. The building was officially opened in 1920. He similarly volunteered his time to the Eastwood-Torbay District Progress Association and served on the Albany Roads Board from 1911. After many years service, he resigned in 1934. He was highly regarded in the Torbay - Kronkup area when, after securing 320 acres of faming land 1908, demonstrated significant returns just three years into its operation. He farmed there until 1944 when he bought a property at Lower King, retiring there until his death. Paul Buckeridge was actively involved with the Kronkup Rifle Club for many years and was known to enjoy recreational chess. He is buried with his first wife Edith (nee Bagnall), their resting place alongside Horace.

### 12. 1876, Cpl G F HILL, 10 LHR    016 S 242 E

Posted to the 10th Light Horse Regiment in 1915, George Fausson Hill was no stranger to the mounted squadron having enlisted in the Boer War with the 6th Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse in 1902.

Born and educated in Sale, Victoria, George was farming at Yarragon before moving to Western Australia in 1908. With copious energy and enthusiasm and a keen interest in political, social and current affairs, George immediately immersed himself in community activities, travelling to Ravensthorpe with prominent businessmen of the district to establish a model parliament, just weeks after his arrival. Elected 'Minister for Railways', it would be one of many committees on which George would stand.

In the agricultural industry since leaving school, George established the property *Rockleigh* at Kronkup, west of Albany. Committed to the development and promotion of the area, he joined the West Albany Settlers Association and was appointed to the committee of the Kronkup Agricultural Hall, elected chairman. He was a member of the Albany Roads Board in 1913 and 1923-24 and was captain of the Kronkup Rifle Club, later donating the G F Hill Trophy for a competitive shoot. On the committee of the Torbay Junction branch of the Farmers and Settlers' Association in 1914, he later held positions as the secretary of the Albany District Council of the Primary Producers' Association, secretary of the Youngs Siding branch of the Primary Producers' Association, president of the Torbay District Cricket League, secretary to the Great Southern District Cricket Association and umpired cricket with Albany Cricket Association, forming an umpires association in 1931. Vice president of the Albany Football Association in 1934, George was also a dedicated member of the Returned Soldiers Association, becoming secretary of the Returned Soldier's League Torbay Sub-branch in 1922.

Enlisting in the AIF, George, 36, embarked at Fremantle in January 1916 bidding farewell to his wife Elizabeth and daughter Doris. Detached to the newly raised Imperial Camel Corps in Egypt, he remained with the unit until taken on strength of the 14th Light Horse Regiment in 1918. Returning to Australia in August 1919, George was on home soil once again.

Moving out of farming in the 1920s, George became an inspector of group settlements before establishing a business in Albany selling Beale pianos.

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POST CARD

### Albany Memorial Park Cemetery — ANZAC walk trail one

One of the earliest cemeteries to be consecrated in Western Australia, the first burials took place on the lower section of this site in 1840 including that of colonial surgeon Dr Alexander Collie, his remains exhumed from Albany town lot S112 and reinterred. While lot S115, between York Street and Stirling [Collie] Street was the first recorded burial site for the New South Wales penal outpost, lot S112 behind the Albany Town Hall was later used, remaining the burial site of respected Noongar elder, Mokare. The first in a series of cemetery walk trails, gravesites have been chosen from a historical, military and social perspective to commemorate the centenary of ANZAC and reflect upon the lives of those touched by war.
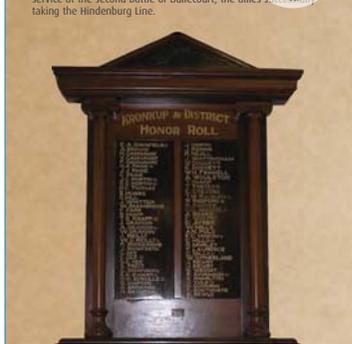
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*First recruits, the 'Albany boys' at Blackboy Hill, 1914.*

*A military funeral procession makes its way up York St to the cemetery, 1918*

*Albany Memorial Park Cemetery near the site of Alexander Collie's grave, ca 1950.*

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### 1. 870, Pte J HARRISON, 14 Bn    (GPS coordinates) 093 S 392 E

Laid to rest in Albany as his mates sailed for Egypt, Victorian soldier Private James Harrison would never witness the horrors of war. Enlisting in the AIF in September 1914, Jim was posted to the 14th Battalion, the unit's reputation inextricably associated with the actions of Lance Corporal Albert Jacka, the first Victoria Cross recipient of the AIF.

Embarking at Melbourne three days before Christmas, Jim sailed for Albany, his troopship the *Ulysses* anchoring in King George's Sound with other transports of the second convoy. In failing health he was admitted to the government hospital, the building still stands on Vancouver Street, to be subsequently discharged as medically unfit. He passed away of an abdominal obstruction not three weeks after the convoy departed on 31st December 1914. He was buried with full military honours.

Born in Inglewood, Jim was educated at Gravel Hill State School, taking up work with local contractors Peeler and Norris before enlistment. His two brothers also enlisted in the AIF, Private Claude Harrison [7630] posted to the 8th Battalion and Private Leslie Harrison [5381] posted to the 5th, later taken on strength of the 59th Battalion. Both sustained battlefield injuries in France but survived the war, returning to Australia in 1919. Their uncle, Private William Henry Roberts [239] of the 6th Australian Machine Gun Company was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous service at the second battle of Bullecourt, the allies successfully taking the Hindenburg Line.

### 2. 33, Pte W CLAYTON, 28 Bn    060 S 348 E

Born in 1893 to George William Morgan Clayton and Henrietta Prosser, Wallace Clayton was one of four Albany born brothers to enlist in the AIF. Working as a fireman with the West Australian Government Railways, he joined up in Kalgoorlie in 1915 and was posted to the 28th Battalion, his younger brother Ernest, a butcher in Albany posted to the same battalion. When their two older brothers enlisted in 1916, Lewis, farming in Tasmania, posted to the 12th Battalion and Henry to the 48th. All boys but Wallace returned from war.

Emigrating from Britain, George Clayton settled in Albany on his arrival in 1876. Taking an ardent interest in local politics and community affairs, George became a regular contributor to the Albany Advertiser, enthusiastically voicing his opinion on local matters.
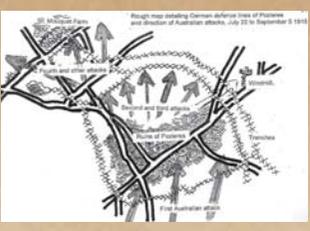
Similarly articulate, bugler Wallie Clayton wrote home from Egypt in August 1915:

*"[in the land of the Pharaohs] Australia seems to be but a land of dream ... I often wonder if we will all wake up and find we have been asleep for a few months. ... Only the sights we see out here are too true. It is tragic to see the number of wounded chaps, returning some sound for life, others very little better off ... sleeping their life's blood on foreign soil ... It makes you realise the folly of this great war... to look around our camp around and realise that here where we are sleeping and training for fitness, and enter into this great fight for liberty, against barbarism, right in sight of us is the place which has, in days gone by, been the scene of some of the great battles of the earlier days ... where Napoleon fought and beat the fierce warlike Mamelukes [and where] Lord Nelson destroyed the French fleet in Aboukir Bay, and to think that the people whom England was allied with in those days are the ones to start this barbarous war. But these things were to be, and therefore they are".*

Serving in France, the 28th Battalion prepared to engage in its first major battle on the Western Front. Attached to the Trench Mortar Battery, Wallace was carrying ammunition near the windmill at Pozières in August 1916 when struck by an exploding shell. His memorial gravesite at Villers-Bretonneux stands testament to the bloodshed at Pozières.

### 3. 3413, L/Cpl S J BARROW, MM, 16 Bn    059 S 329 E

Lancashire born Samuel James Barrow dedicated himself to saving the lives of others. A stretcher bearer in France during the Great War, he was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous service, consistently showing 'great gallantry' in tending the wounded under relentless artillery and shell fire in an area north-west of Pozières.

The Battle of Pozières in 1916 was one of the most costly for Australian troops. L/Cpl Barrow's unit was part of the 4th Brigade forming the 4th Division, famous for its advance on the Hindenburg Line in 1917. In a letter home to Albany, Sam tells of the horrors of the war whilst maintaining a clear sense of optimism.

Sam was highly regarded in the local community, considered a man of compassion and energy, devoted to duty of care through the delivery and instruction of first aid in Albany. Badly affected by shell shock and gassing in France, he was unable to return to work with the WAGR [Western Australian Government Railways] on his return from the war. His tireless work with St John Ambulance was recognised with the distinguished award of Serving Brother of the Order. He was actively involved in the masonic lodge in Albany and was a committed member and office bearer of the Returned Soldiers League.
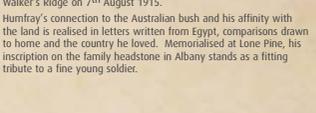
### 5. 3044, Pte W R BRUCE, 48 Bn    035 S 322 E

Popular sportsman, William Rufus Bruce was the fourth son of Albany pioneers, John Rufus Bruce and Alice Amelia Bispham. John, a master mariner, established commercial interests in whaling and the sandalwood industry. The family also associated with the Ship Inn, one of the first public houses to be built in Albany. The hotel stood at the southern end of Spencer Street, on the foreshore near Lower Stirling Terrace.

Enlisting in the AIF in 1916, Willie was posted to the 48th Battalion [Bn]. An experienced rifleman training five years with the naval reserves, he gained prominence in Albany in competitive rifle shooting events. Without purpose built facilities at the time, naval cadets trained at the drill hall in Spencer Street where No 5 Flight is situated today. The Plantagenet Rifles, Albany's last volunteer corps formed in 1888, were also stationed on this site.

Fit and athletic, Willie Bruce also competed in Albany Amateur Swimming Club events, roller skating carnivals, dinghy sailing in Princess Royal Sailing Club regattas and enjoyed on stage theatrical performances with a local dramatic society.

The 48th Battalion, raised in Egypt in 1916, was involved in major offensives along the Ypres salient. Undertaking relief and supply operations in the Battle of Polygon Wood, orders were given to get critical ammunition and supplies through to the forward line on Anzac Ridge. Negotiating an area already decimated by heavy artillery bombardment, Willie Bruce and his platoon began moving towards brigade headquarters. Navigating heavily littered terrain and under relentless shellfire, he was mortally wounded on 29th September, 1917 by an exploding shell. He is buried at Lijssenthoek Cemetery Belgium, one of the largest military cemeteries on the Western Front.

### 6. 112, Pte O D H HASSELL, 10 LHR    039 S 301 E

Humfray Hassell was the seventh son and one of nine children born to Albert Young Hassell and Ethel Clifton, prominent families in the Albany community associated with the pastoral industry, maritime and shipping.

Born in 1891, Humfray's early education was undertaken at Camfield, a local school of the Christian Brothers. Completing his secondary education at Geelong Grammar where he was promoted to corporal in the school cadet corps, he returned to Albany, a stockman on the family station Jarramungup north east of Albany. The significant landholding would be taken up by the Commonwealth for the soldier settlement scheme around 1950, thus establishing the municipal area and town of Jerramungup.

Respected pastoralists, the Hassells were well known for the horses bred on the Jarramungup property, it being understood that Humfray took his own horse from this stock to war. Enlisting in the AIF on October 1914, Humfray was posted to the 10th Light Horse Regiment, a trooper in its foundation unit, A squadron. Leaving Fremantle in February 1915 aboard HMAT Mashobra, the transport carried more than 400 men and their horses, bound for Mena camp in Egypt. Serving dismounted on Gallipoli, it was in the infamous charge at the Nek that Humfray was killed in action, falling at Walker's Ridge on 7th August 1915.

Humfray's connection to the Australian bush and his affinity with the land is realised in letters written from Egypt, comparisons drawn to home and the country he loved. Memorialised at Lone Pine, his inscription on the family headstone in Albany stands as a fitting tribute to a fine young soldier.

### 7. S r E H RICHARDSON, AANS    048 S 266 E

Born in Tamworth, Elsie Haywood Richardson was the daughter of Arthur Haywood Richardson and Harriett Amelia Brown. Arthur, a bank manager, came to Western Australia in 1892 establishing branches of the Western Australian Bank, the ninth branch opening in Albany in 1896. Educated in New South Wales and Western Australia, Elsie completed her first year of nurses training at Perth Public Hospital, nursing at Tamworth for three years before taking a position at Kalgoorlie as staff nurse.

Enlisting in the Australian Army Nursing Service [AANS], she was posted to the 2nd Australian General Hospital [2 AGH] embarking at Fremantle in July 1915. Stationed at Mena House near Cairo for several months, Elsie proceeded to France, attached to hospitals at Wimereux and Abbeville. Recurring respiratory illness saw her invalided to England, returning to France before being evacuated again in 1917. She returned to Australia and was subsequently discharged.

Re-enlisting in 1918, Elsie served at the base hospital in Fremantle before making her way to military hospitals in India. Promoted to sister, she was posted to the 34th Welsh General Hospital [34 WGH] in Deolali, holding the position of assistant matron. In 1919, she transferred to the 18th British General Hospital at Gharial, remaining there until her return to Australia at the end of the year.

Dedicated, caring and compassionate, Elsie Richardson displayed a profound sense of civic duty and social responsibility. Returning to the family home *Cooriup* on Middleton Road, she undertook a small amount of private practice, caring for her parents and involving herself in community organisations, holding positions of office at the Albany Infant Health Association and the Albany Women's Rest House. She was a member of the Country Women's Association, instructed in nursing and first aid at the St John Ambulance Association and was a dedicated supporter of St John's Anglican Church. She passed away at the age of 54.
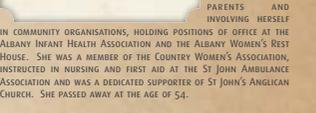
*The honour board of servicemen from the Kronkup district in the Bornholm-Kronkup Hall.*

*The scarred landscape at Péronne in the aftermath of heavy shelling, 1917.*

*Sketch of the Pozières battlefield based on the original by C.E.W Bean*

*The Albany Cricket Association's Easter Touring Eleven were unbeaten in their tour of the Great Southern, 1914.*

*Writing home from Gallipoli, 1915.*

*Sr Elsie Haywood Richardson, 1915*