CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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The Gallipoli and Western Front
‘Dead from Western Australia’ Projects

Shannon Lovelady
Anzac Cove, 1915

Photo courtesy the Tweedie family
Eligibility Criteria:
Each soldier must have:

- been born in, or enlisted from, WA
- **OR** lived here for some time
- **AND** their death must have been as direct result of their Gallipoli service **before 31 August 1921**
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Marcia Watson
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No one said no…
Nothing wrong with your eyes...

it’s just a small shot of the list! 😊
11th (then 51st) Battalion
Private Joseph ADLAM
Died 1919: VDH/Cardiac/Dropsy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Case</th>
<th>Regiment or Corps</th>
<th>Serial No. of Company</th>
<th>Regt. No.</th>
<th>BANK AND NAME</th>
<th>Completed Years of Service</th>
<th>Date Admitted into Hospital</th>
<th>DATED</th>
<th>DISEASE</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Initials</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Cause of Death</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Destination of Transfer, and to what Hospital or Ship Transferred</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>902</td>
<td>Ph Adlam J M</td>
<td>7 17</td>
<td>2 2</td>
<td>19 19</td>
<td>V.D.H</td>
<td>Cardiac</td>
<td>8 Medical Section</td>
<td>8.50 P.M.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11th (then 51st) Battalion
Private Joseph ADLAM
Died 1919: VDH/Cardiac/Dropsy
# Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia

Full list online at bit.ly/GDWAtelist

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## Gallipoli Dead - WA check list

Sunday, 23 June 2014 16:56, Hits: 67327

**Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia - Check list** (List last updated @ 11:30 07 Feb 2014)

Now incl. Regiment / Btn. + Death Year/Day/Mth, Cause of Death, Location & Age - See notes below the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID #</th>
<th>Service No.</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Given Names</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Regiment / Btn.</th>
<th>Death Yr</th>
<th>Day-Mth</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Age</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2281</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>AARONS</td>
<td>Maurice 'Morrie' Lewis</td>
<td>Verified</td>
<td>16th Battalion</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>08-Aug</td>
<td>Declared KIA</td>
<td>Popes Ridge, Gallipoli</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1138</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>ABBOTT</td>
<td>Harold Henry</td>
<td>Verified</td>
<td>24th Battalion</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>29-Nov</td>
<td>KIA</td>
<td>Gallipoli Peninsula</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>ABRAHAMS</td>
<td>Louis Charles</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>16th Battalion</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>27-Oct</td>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td>Perth Public Hospital, WA</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4971</td>
<td>Sapper</td>
<td>ACTON</td>
<td>John Vincent</td>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>Australian Engineers</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>12-Aug</td>
<td>Cerebral tumor and collapse</td>
<td>No 8 Australian General Hospital</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WA's Gallipoli dead – ‘we ate an elephant’

By Shannon Lovelady

I started the Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia project in June 2013 because someone asked the question: How many West Australians were killed at Gallipoli? We didn’t know. I thought we should know.

Everyone I spoke to said it was an impossible task, but I have a background in database administration, am good at handling mass data and have years of family history, including military, research experience.

I broached the idea with the WA Genealogical Society’s WA Interest Group (of which I am a member) and the idea was well received. Within a day or two I had about a dozen research volunteers, my first lot, from there.

After about a fortnight I had a total of 50 brilliant volunteers. I work three days a week so on those days I only worked on the project from about 6-11pm. On the days I was not at work, I worked at least 12–14 hours a day on the project.

Just adding that up now, it’s roughly 1,625 hours in those first 25 weeks. My husband, always hugely supportive, picked up the slack for shopping, cooking, cleaning, and driving our kids around.

On Christmas Eve 2013, after 25 weeks, all the men’s names had been completely researched and the list was almost finished. I consciously put the project aside for a few weeks.

When I picked it up again a short time later, it was to play with the data, find inconsistencies, weed out the soft-hearted volunteers’ returns who’d said someone was eligible but really wasn’t. To pick up inconsistencies, to challenge the findings. And vitally important, to convene an international medical forensic panel (of friends and friends of friends) to debate the probable cause of death of certain cases, and determine whether it had its roots at Gallipoli. The data held.

I then wrote a database to hold the data so the information was at my fingertips, followed by more sifting, more testing, more investigations by everyone involved. A brilliant, collaborative project with an outcome everyone said wasn’t possible. It was. We ate an elephant, one bite at a time.

What it means now is that Western Australia is the only State with an accurate list of their Gallipoli dead. I am immensely proud of that.

Because of the database, I can also search on specifics, like ‘How many 11th Battalion men were killed in the taking of Leane’s Trench the night of 31 July/1 August 1915?’ The answer is 36, with all the names easily extracted into a neat list. What could be better?

* Gallipoli Dead Project List begins on page 35
There were 1023 soldiers from WA who were killed at Gallipoli, or died as a result of their service at Gallipoli. Lest we forget.

Search for an elusive number uncovers stories that count.
25 Apr 15
1023 red balloons released over #Perth. One for each West Australian who lost their lives at #Gallipoli. #lestweforget #WWI #anzacday #Anzac100 #Western Australia #Perthlife
### Personal details
- **Surname**: Hart AKA Elart
- **Christian names**: Henry Oliver AKA Edward
- **Service No**: 103
- **Rank**: Private
- **Reg/Btn**: 1st Battalion
- **Born, State/Country**: North Melbourne, Vic
- **DoB**: 16/06/1889 (Given)
- **Unit etc**: VIC
- **Where, State/Country**: Randwick, NSW
- **Stated Occupation**: Labourer

### Enlistment details
- **Date/Year**: 24 August 1914
- **Age stated**: 25 years 1 month
- **Next of Kin**: Brother, J Hart, 40 Northcote Rd, Armadale, Vic; Sister, Mrs G O Turner, 40 Bronte Street, East Perth, WA

### Notes
AKA 'Harry'. Initially marked ineligible as on paper, that's how he looks. DoB 16 Jun 1889. Enlisted as Harry Oliver Hart in the RAN on 27 May 1915 for five years. Was a bugler and served as Stoker, 2nd Class on the Germania and the Silver Star in 1913 and then HMAS Australia in 1914 (Feb to Apr) before desertsing. Four months later (August) he enlisted in the AIF as Edward Elart. From Gallipoli on 25 May 1915 he wrote a letter to his CO confessing his crime, hoping the authorities would consider his time in the AIF as part of his 5 years naval commitments and hoping they would let him serve the rest of his time (about 3 years) out with the Navy, when he got home. He said he had intended remaining silent about his identity but having his mates killed either side of him a few days before made him realise that the honour of death may now be any man's. Captain Jacobs endorsed him, saying 'For your earnest consideration, this man has been doing excellent work and in my opinion has fully repaid his country for the trouble he has caused.' Went out on patrol on 5 June and was fatally wounded by a shot from his own trench (letter from Major Kindon, 1st Bn), dying 11 days later. Connection to WA: His sister, Mrs Marshall, whose son (Driver F J W Marshall) also died, said in a letter in his WSR that Harry went to live with his other sister, Mrs Turner in WA when their mother died. Mrs Turner died in 1919 aged 36. How long did he live with her before enlisting in 1913? Claire Greere (FB) did some digging for me on that front - revealing a letter on Trove from his sister Gertrude after he died, saying he'd spent the last part of his short life in WA and attended James Street School. She emphatically said he did not belong to NSW but (just) enlisted there. Claire also found his mother Mary (nee McDonald) died here in 1906 so presumably he was living with her at the time and then went to live with Gert. 8+ years. Eligible.

### Death details
- **Date/Year**: 17/06/1915 1915
- **Age**: 25
- **CoD**: DOW
- **Location**: At sea on board HS Sicilia between Gallipoli and
- **Grave**: Buried at sea. Lone Pine Memorial

### Admin
- **Initial source**: Western Mail obituaries 1916
- **provided by**: WAGS, Marcia Watson

### Anomaly Code
- **C**: DoB given and age at enlistment disagree

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**Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia database**
Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia
Birthplace breakdown – general

- Australia: 586
- UK: 392
- New Zealand: 28
- Other: 17
Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia
Birthplace breakdown – Australia and NZ-born

VIC: 251
WA: 147
SA: 81
NSW: 76
QLD: 20
TAS: 12
Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia
Places of Enlistment
Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia
Deaths per month

- April 25-30
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

1916 to 1921
11th Battalion Private
James Bennett(s) HOLDER
Twice Wounded.

Word has been received by the relatives from the Secretary for Defence that Private J. B. Holder, formerly of Albany-road, Cannington, was on August 11 wounded a second time at the Dardanellenas. It will be learned with deep regret that Private Holder's second wound is in an eye, where he has been injured by a bullet. The relatives now live at 58 Hay-street, Subiaco.
Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia
Ages given on enlistment
11th Battalion Private Hugh Brian O’DONNELL

Enlisted 12 November 1914 aged “19 years, 1 month”.

But he was only 16...

Killed in action six months later, on 12 May 1915, aged 16 years, 8 months.
16th Battalion Private Richard Henry CHASE

Born Barbados, West Indies
Fruit grower and civil servant

Killed in action, Courtney’s Post
28 April 1915
Lake Dobie
Oct 13th 1917

To the Officer Base Records Melbourne

Dear Sir,

I am writing you to hope you will pay attention to my letter which is Concerning my husband Paper F. Brennan 3rd Field Engineers France he was send from there in December of last year to the 3rd General Hospital Barrack Water England. We have not heard from him since he wrote to me on the 9th of December last year. So we have been wondering what has happened to him there as been so of my letters returned to me which he should have had months ago so that is not writer I have been to the Red Cross Office in Melbourne but they do not seem to be able to give me any information. I am worried about him so hoping you can release my wish.
Middle Creek
Jan 7th 1924
To the Officer in Charge of Base Records
Melbourne

Dear Sir,
I am writing to you about my nephew—No. 496.
Sapper J. Casanova,
3rd Brigade,
3rd Field Engineers.

The last tidings we heard of him was that he had come back to Australia, somewhere about April 29th 1919, on the ship "Kashmir," and that he landed at the Outer Harbour, Adelaide, South Australia. He was supposed to be suffering badly from shell shock; I don't know whether he was taken on to Melbourne by train, or put in some Hospital or Institution in Adelaide, but if you have any record of him at all, please let me know. We had word in the latter end of 1916, from the Doncaster...
To the G.P.O.

Dear Sir,

you will receive a letter to Husband Field Eng. last year, to send for Hospital in which he have not wrote to last year, what as he is so of my age so was been to Melbourne to the Ads. I am not hoping. The last that he wrote was a Ship. No Outer Harbour as he was sent Shell, he was taken put in Adelaide of him a word in Department saying he was missing, if we thought he must be dead, but just lately, I met a returned Soldier who stated he came over on the boat, he mentioned where he got off. This Soldier himself came on home to Lake Bolac in Victoria, as he heard no more of J. I was asked to hear from you as soon as you are able to give me any information. If he has really returned to Australia, there should be an unclaimed Medal belonging to him some where in the R.P. Melbourne at some of the Dept. The originally belonged to Lake Bolac, but he was in Western Australia at the time the war broke out, & enlisted from there; I will be pleased when I hear from you, if there is any expense attached to the searching, let me know.

Yours Sincerely,

M. A. Loasanoa,

Be sure & address any communication to me as under:

Mr. Mark A. Loasanoa
Main Road
Middle Creek, N. Str. P.G.
Victoria
Dear Sir,

your letter to hand of the 16th I have to inform you that I have no word of my husband since the 16th of the 1st 1914 & I should there fore be glad of any information you could give me.

Your truly,

Hilda W. Casanovas
Church Lane
Shawell
Die

Department saying he was missing, I we thought he must be dead, & just lately, I met a returned Soldier who stated he came over on the boat & mentioned where he got off. This Soldier himself came on home to Lake Bolac in Victoria, as he heard no more of J. Casanovas, I would like to hear from you as soon as you are able to give me any information. If he has really returned to Australia, there should be an unclaimed Medal belonging to him somewhere in Melbourne or at some of the Dept. He originally belonged to Lake Bolac, Vic, but he was in Western Australia at the time the war broke out & enlisted from there; I will be pleased when I hear from you & if there is any expenses attached to the searching let me know.

Yours Sincerely

M. A. Casanovas

Be sure to address any communications to me as under:

Mr. Mark A. Casanovas
Main Road
Middle Creek N. Sth. P.G.
Victoria
Dear Sir,

The Department have informed me that my husband, Vincenzo Loosan, who was reported missing since the 1st of 1917, is now in Western Australia. He was reported absent with leave from the 20th of March 1918. I have not heard anything further about him and I suspect that he may have been in the desert for a long time. I am writing to you to make inquiries about him.

I am not in a position to give you his address, but I am hoping that you will be able to give me any information you may have. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

I remain yours truly,

Vincenzo Loosan
Soldier's Wife

Address: Post Office
St. Peter's
Victoria

P.S. I am now at the age of 70 years and I am hoping to see my husband again.
Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in regard to my husband who was posted to the 1st Battalion and is now in France. I have heard nothing from him since he left home on the 1st of January 1918. It is now the middle of May 1918 and I am longing to hear from him. I have written to him several times but have received no reply.

I am in great need of food and clothing. I have five children to support and we are living in very difficult circumstances. My husband was in the military hospital for several weeks and I do not know how he is doing now. I have heard that they are very strict in the military hospital and that the patients are not given enough food.

I am hoping for some news soon. I would be very grateful if you could do anything to help me in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

TO: The Officer Base Records

CHICAGO

DEAR SIR,

I received a letter from the I.C. Office yesterday, dated 1st of October 1917, telling me that the allotment made to me for my husband's pay was suspended as he had been called up from the 1st of January. The reason is that the soldier is absent without leave. It is very hard for me as there is my self & child & there is no allowance for me at all. I don't quite understand what this means. My husband has been in the army for over 3 years & 9 months on active service & I have no means of supporting myself & child without some help. It is thus the law for soldiers wives & there children.
to the Officer Base records, Melbourne.

Dear Sir,

I have received a letter from the military, 1917, telling me the allotment made to my husband. My husband was picked for 4867 life, and my name was left on the list. The reason in that the soldier is absent without leave is very hard for me. My self and child and there is no allowance for me at all. I don't quite understand what this means. My husband is one of the old army, he is only 3 years and 3 months on active service. I have no means of supporting myself and child without some help. It is this, the law for soldiers wives and there children.

Victoria
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>When Married</th>
<th>Name and Surname</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Rank or Profession</th>
<th>Residence at the time of Marriage</th>
<th>Father's Name and Surname</th>
<th>Rank or Profession of Father</th>
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<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>William John Andrews Casanova</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>63 Susan Rd, Southall</td>
<td>Antonio Casanova</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Ellen Jane Eliza Walker</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Spinster</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22 White St, Southall</td>
<td>Henry Thomas Walker</td>
<td>Varnish maker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Married in the Church of England according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by licence or after by me, William John Andrews Casanova and Alice Walker in the Presence of us, Henry Bartholomew. This Marriage was solemnized between us, Ellen Jane Eliza Walker.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>When Married</th>
<th>Name and Surname</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Rank or Profession</th>
<th>Residence at the time of Marriage</th>
<th>Father's Name and Surname</th>
<th>Rank or Profession of Father</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>January 16th</td>
<td>William John Andrew Casamore</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>63 Sunny Rd. Southall</td>
<td>Antonio Casamore</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Ellen Jane Eliza Walker</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td></td>
<td>22 White St. Southall</td>
<td>Henry Thomas Walker</td>
<td>Varnish Maker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Married in the Church of St. George, according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England, by license or after by me, William John Andrew Casamore, in the presence of us, Ellen Jane Eliza Walker and Alice Walker.}

This Marriage was solemnized between us, by George Smith, licent.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>When Married</th>
<th>Name and Surname</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Rank or Profession</th>
<th>Residence at the time of Marriage</th>
<th>Father’s Name and Surname</th>
<th>Rank or Profession of Father</th>
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<td>101</td>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>William John Andre Casavona</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>63 Sarah Rd, Southall</td>
<td>Antonio Casavona</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Ellen Jane Eliza Walker</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>spinster</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22 White St, Southall</td>
<td>Henry Thomas Walker</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Married in the Church of England according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by license or after by me, William John Andre Casavona and Ellen Jane Eliza Walker, in the Presence of us, Henry Bartholomew.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, by license or after by me, William John Andre Casavona and Ellen Jane Eliza Walker, in the Presence of us, Henry Bartholomew.
16th Battalion
Lieutenant Kieran Leopold Leopold ANDERSON (24)

Western Mail
25 December 1915
Bloody Angle, by 16th Battalion Signaller Ellis Silas

Crusading at Anzac...
Rising Sun and 16th Battalion badges recovered from Bloody Angle, 1922
Courtesy Australian War Memorial
WOULD Mrs. Anderson, of Western Australia, whose son enlisted in the 16th Battalion, friend of the late Henry Wallis Williams, of Western Australia, kindly communicate with Mrs. J. Weste (nee Williams) 61 Railway Crescent, Williamstown, Victoria.
Watching Australia’s WWI history being written. He seems unimpressed...
Private Harold William Burn George, 16th Battalion, machine gun section, died on April 27, 1915. The photo, taken on November 28, 1914, is published courtesy the Australian War Memorial.

By Shannon Lovelady

Convener, Gallipoli dead in WA group

Private Harold George survived the Gallipoli landing on April 25, 1915, but died in action two days later.

He was 20 years old and a young man of great promise.

The son of Mary Ann and William George, who was Commissioner of Railways, Harold grew up in Bay Road in Claremont.

He went to Scotch College where he was regarded as “a young man of great ability”.

Harold passed his exams with distinction and had begun a very promising business career as a clerk before enlisting in November 1914.

His enlistment papers say he was 5ft 8 in tall (174cm), had dark hair, dark complexion, blue eyes and a duplicate set of upper false teeth.

After his death, his identity disc, camera, watch, wallet and photos were recovered and returned to his family.

He was buried at Pope’s Hill Cemetery, but due to flooding in 1928 was re-interred at Quinn’s Post Cemetery, Gallipoli.

There is a rose memorial window in Christ Church Anglican Church in Claremont dedicated to the George family.
Post Newspapers
25 April 2015
“Gallipoli Remembered”

Coming soon

with foreword by former Governor General
Sir Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC
Shannon part of the curriculum

POST columnist Shannon Lovelady reduces some of her readers to tears.

Now her writing is to be part of the WA school curriculum.

Shannon, the archivist at Presbyterian Ladies’ College, has been writing her Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia column since February.

The History Teachers’ Association of WA says the columns will be introduced to the curriculum as an integral part of the support material for a series of history programs that examine the WA contribution to World War I.

“When compared against a sometimes emotionless, official account, her stories will encourage students to understand how people felt at the time, be analytical of sources, and apply critical thinking,” the association said.

“Mrs Lovelady uses myriad primary sources to tell a whole story encompassing context, background and feelings.”

She and her researchers use multiple original sources and Shannon weaves each man’s entire life into a compelling narrative that unfortunately has, as the title implies, an unhappy ending.

Shannon said she was proud her work would reach such an important audience and many readers had shed tears as she shone a light on the West Australians who died at Gallipoli or soon after from their wounds or illnesses.

“The researchers, from the WA Genealogical Society, Facebook, my friends and family, took it on as wholeheartedly as I did,” she said.

The project began when Dr Susan Maushart wanted to publish the number of WA Gallipoli dead in PLC’s centenary history, but no one knew the answer (“Gallipoli dead tracked down”, January 24).

This week’s moving Gallipoli Dead column is on page 68.
2015 West Australian Media Awards

Best Columnist - The Matt Price Award

- Liam Bartlett: Weekly Columnist, *The Sunday Times*
- Shannon Lovelady: Gallipoli remembered, *POST Newspapers*
- Andrew Probyn: Probyn Columns, *The West Australian*
- Shane Wright: Comets, cities and a Snuffleupagus, *The West Australian*
Brilliant speech online

Radiant after a brilliant speech: Military historian Shannon Lovelady flanked by Cottesloe RSL MC Rob O’Connor QC and her husband, Ross. Shannon mesmerised a packed Cottesloe Civic Centre when delivering the 6th annual LT Frederick Bell VC Memorial Lecture last month. Her speech about the 1023 men from WA who died at Gallipoli, soon to be a book ‘Gallipoli Remembered’, is now online at www.rslwahq.org.au. In her speech she recounts dead men walking, a Royal Marine, some loving sons, an honourable scallywag, an outright scoundrel and a bona fide hero.
What then?
Western Front Dead
from Western Australia
Hit the ground running February 2016
Higher Assessment Panel

-Professor Peter Stanley
Higher Assessment Panel

- Professor Peter Stanley
- Rob O’Connor QC
Higher Assessment Panel

- Professor Peter Stanley
- Rob O’Connor QC
- Tim Lycett
Higher Assessment Panel

- Professor Peter Stanley
- Rob O’Connor QC
- Tim Lycett
- Andrew Pittaway
Higher Assessment Panel

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- Rob O’Connor QC
- Tim Lycett
- Andrew Pittaway
- Dr Mike Galvin
Higher Assessment Panel

- Professor Peter Stanley
- Rob O’Connor QC
- Tim Lycett
- Andrew Pittaway
- Dr Mike Galvin
- Dr Brenton Brooks
How many West Australians died?

by Shannon Lovelady

Having completed the Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia project and determined the number of West Australians killed at Gallipoli (1,023), I have turned my attention to the Western Front. Aside from being the area of my own personal interest, it was the greater tragedy, with many more casualties; I could not leave it undone.

With a launch date of February 1, 2016, I began gathering data in October 2015, extracting from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (graves with any mention of WA, buried anywhere), WA battalions’ Rolls of Honour, Karrakatta War Graves and various other smaller lists.

My estimation is just shy of 4,500

Then, using project volunteer Claire Green’s high-resolution images, we transcribed the entire list of names on the WWI section of the State War Memorial in Kings Park. This will be gifted to the RSL and the Kings Park Wardens of the War Memorial, as no digitised list of the names currently exists.

I spent the next few months quietly sifting the names, de-duplicating, filling in first names and service numbers for those missing, collating and amalgamating the list.

At the end of that, we had 6,240 names of men whose records need examination, and on Facebook we were taking guesses as to what our final number would be. (My estimation is just shy of 4,500.)

In the weeks leading up to February 1 I secured ten members onto the Medical Forensic Assessment Team to assess the borderline medical cases, and 28 research volunteers who would research 10 men at a time. As word of the impending launch spread, I gained another half dozen and on February 1 I sent out 350 soldiers to the research volunteers.

Their job is to examine the records and extract the information I need, and more, to determine whether their man’s service on the Western Front directly contributed to their death before August 31, 1917 (the cut-off date for official consideration as ‘War Dead’, established by the CWGC many years ago).

Other data I’m extracting include marital status and religion, so we can break these down into statistics when the examination phase is over.

I’m also extracting description, building a strong research base for anyone wanting to examine or challenge the belief that our soldiers were tall, blonde and bronzed. I have already noticed our Western Front Dead seem to be shorter, darker and, often, more slightly built than their Gallipoli counterparts.

While I don’t subscribe to the theory that our Aboriginal soldiers can be identified purely by a description including dark eyes, dark hair and dark complexions, it may be of use to some for that purpose, as well.

Some volunteers are still on their first lists. Others have done more than a dozen. Unlike with the Gallipoli project, which started with a gentle roll, this was WHEAT Full speed, from Day 1.

The Facebook group, Western Front Dead from Western Australia, was also an immediate hive of activity, with volunteers posting queries about various soldiers in their lists, and observers offering their opinions.

It very quickly became obvious many, many more people across Australia, were now watching our progress.

With one soldier, Thomas Burrell, particularly robust debate ensued, each person presenting their reasoning as to why he should, or should not, be eligible. Burrell was not the most conscientious soldier, but my criteria are simple, and make no moral judgement.

But as intense discussion continued, I decided to form a Higher Assessment Panel for Burrell and other cases like him.

I invited six men, all well-qualified and deeply respected in their fields: Rob O’Connor QC, Professor Peter Stanley, Dr Mike Galvin, Andrew Pittaway, Tim Lye and Brenton Brooks. All six said yes, and Burrell was the first case presented. After deliberation and submission of considered opinions, he was deemed eligible by majority.

Only the next day, the next man was presented — Alexander Bethune. The jury is still out on him!

So far, 444 men have been found eligible; 63 ineligible (some of whom were 10th Light Horensen who were not deployed to the Western Front). 361 are currently with the research volunteers, their records under close examination.

This means 14 per cent of our list has been completed in just three weeks. If this truly frantic pace continues, this data-examination phase of the project will be completed well before the deadline at the end of 2017.
Eye Colour (on 20% of completed data)
Hair colour (on 20% completed data)
Heights range from...

16th Coy AASC
L/Corporal Michael Blenkinsop MM
5’0” tall
Died from illness (bronchitis)
26 January 1919
...to

51st Battalion Sergeant Henry Eaton
6’4” tall
Killed in action, Ploegsteert, Belgium
17 July 1917
Weight range:
...from Australian Flying Corps Pilot
Lieutenant Frederick Smith Woolhouse
102lbs (46kgs), 5’3” tall
...to 51st Battalion
Corporal Eric Carlin
215lbs (97kgs), 5’ 9-1/4” tall
Marital status (on 20% completed data)

- Single: 82%
- Married: 17%
- Widowed: 0%
- Not stated: 1%
Top 10 most common first names (on 20% completed data)

John, William, George, James, Charles, Thomas, Frederick, Robert, Herbert, Ernest
28th Battalion Private
Edward Chichele Giles

Enlisted 4 February 1916
aged “18 years, 6 months”.
28th Battalion Private Edward Chichele GILES

Enlisted 4 February 1916 aged “18 years, 6 months”.

But he was really only 15...

Killed in action at Pozieres 29 July 1916 aged 16 years, 8 days.
Western Front Dead from Wester…

Public group
“THOSE HEROES THAT SHED THEIR BLOOD
AND LOST THEIR LIVES...
YOU ARE NOW Lying IN THE SOIL OF A FRIENDLY COUNTRY
 THEREFORE REST IN PEACE.
THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE JOHNNIES
AND THE MMETS TO US WHERE THEY LIE SIDE BY SIDE
HERE IN THIS COUNTRY OF OURS...
YOU, THE MOTHERS,
WHO SENT THEIR SONS FROM FAR AWAY COUNTRIES
WIPE AWAY YOUR TEARS;
YOUR SONS ARE NOW LYING IN OUR BOSOM
AND ARE IN PEACE.
AFTER HAVING LOST THEIR LIVES ON THIS LAND THEY HAVE
BECOME OUR SONS AS WELL.” — Atatürk 1930

Ataturk’s Memorial, Anzac Cove, Gallipoli
Photo courtesy GDWA volunteer, Jan Addison
Thank you!

Questions?
Thank you!

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