


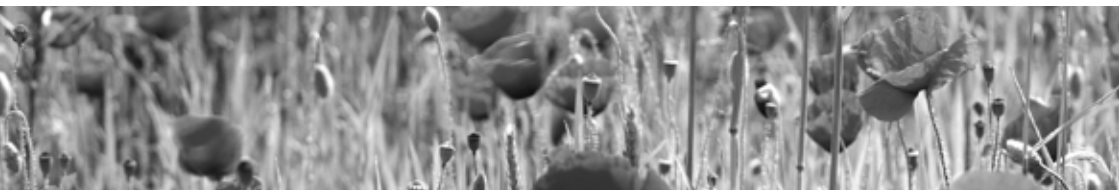
ANZACs in the Indian Ocean

Mauritius - Australians
in the First World War

 100
YEARS OF
ANZAC
THE SPIRIT LIVES
2014 - 2018



Australian High Commission
Port-Louis



Foreword

by the Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Susan Coles

As friends of the Australian High Commission will be aware, it is an Australian tradition that wherever we may be in the world, Australians gather together to commemorate ANZAC Day as one of the most important and solemn events of our national identity. This is in addition, of course, to the dawn services and marches which are held across the length and breadth of our country, from the major cities to small country towns.

ANZAC Day has never been a celebration of victory, the Gallipoli campaign being of course a military defeat, but rather a commemoration of those who, as members of an all-volunteer force, gave their lives for their country, in all wars. ANZAC Day also recalls the horror and loss of war, and the many nurses, Red Cross personnel and medical officers who tended the wounded and dying, behind the front lines.

To mark the centenary of the Gallipoli landings, the Australian High Commission has been researching wartime connections between Mauritius and Australia and seeking to identify and honor those

Australian soldiers of Mauritian birth and heritage.

Our aim in promoting this project was to draw together in one place the current information gathered by many parties from various sources into one record.

By a fortunate coincidence, this project has coincided with projects being undertaken as part of the history studies at Ecole du Centre and Lycée La Bourdonnais to mark the 100 years since the battles of the Great War in Europe, by identifying Mauritians who participated as soldiers in all the allied armies.

This booklet therefore represents the combined efforts of many parties.

H.E. Susan Coles
Australian High Commissioner



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Acknowledgements

Many people have contributed their time, enthusiasm and energy to this modest publication.

The history students of both Ecole du Centre and Lycée La Bourdonnais and their teachers, Christine Ahnee and Christine Renard have been engaged in a major project to mark the centenary of World War 1. They have been endeavouring to identify and honour those Mauritians who fought in this conflict in all the allied armies. Their efforts in respect of those Mauritians who joined the AIF are reflected in these pages.

Professor Edward Duyker, OAM, FAHA, of Dutch and Mauritian ancestry, is an esteemed historian based in Sydney, who has written extensively on Australian-Mauritian links. We are grateful for his helpful advice as well as his contributions of historical material.

Patricia Kimtia of the Cultural Historical

Association of Rodriguans and Mauritians (C.H.A.R.M) of Victoria has also been generous with source material and contacts.

A special thank you also to Warwick Herd, former DFAT officer and spouse of the current Deputy High Commissioner, for undertaking extensive research and compiling this publication.

The High Commission would also particularly like to thank Australian Alumnus Mr. Avyshek Sobhee for generously arranging the design and printing of this commemorative booklet.



Introduction

This year marks the centenary of the landing at Gallipoli, in Turkey, of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) on 25 April, 1915.

The ANZACs, as the troops became known, were part of a larger British led expeditionary force which also included French and Indian troops. The operation was intended to force the Dardanelles and open the path to the Turkish capital of Istanbul.

They were opposed by troops of the Ottoman Empire led by General Mustafa Kemal who later, as Kemal Ataturk, became the founder of the modern secular state of Turkey. (The Ottoman Empire was allied with Germany).

The campaign was a heroic but costly failure and on the 19 and 20 December all ANZAC troops were evacuated, followed in early January by the balance of British forces from Cape Hellas.

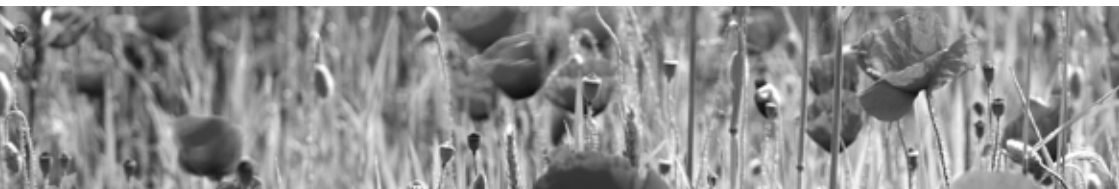
Australian casualties for the Gallipoli campaign amounted to 26, 111, comprising 1007 officers and 25, 104 other ranks. Of these 362 officers and 7779 other soldiers were killed in action, died of wounds or succumbed to disease.

This booklet seeks to identify and honour those soldiers of Mauritian birth and heritage who fought as members of the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) during the Great War. It is obvious, however, that much information still remains to be

uncovered, particularly in terms of family genealogies.

The booklet also seeks to humanise the tragedy of war by providing the personal stories of individual soldiers who, through their service - as Mauritians in the Australian and NZ forces - embody the close links Australia and Mauritius share. Soldiers such as Private Bonnefin (below), who died at Gallipoli in August, 1915.





List of Mauritian born Soldiers who Served in the AIF or prepared by teachers and students of Ecole du Centre and

ANDERSON, Armadale, Major

Australian Imperial Force, 26th Battalion

BEARE, Frank (Dr)

Australian Field Ambulance

Australian Army Infantry, 20th Battalion

BONNEFIN, Adrien Charles

Australian Imperial Force, 2nd Battalion,
1ère Infantry Brigade

Mort en août 1915 à Gallipoli

COUVE, Allan

Australian Army, AIF, 8th Battalion

Died 26 April, 1915, at Gallipoli

Cimetière côtier ANZAC, Gallipoli,
Turquie

COUVE, Henry Thomas

Australian Army, AIF, 8th Battalion

Died 8 May 1915 à Helle, Gallipoli

Mémorial d'Helles, Turquie

DALAIS, André, caporal

Armée australienne, 6th Infantry Battalion

D Company, matricule 2003

DESPLACE, Adam Stanley

Armée australienne, 15th Infantry Battalion,
matricule 1480

DESPLACE, Wilfrid John

Armée australienne, 26th infantry Battalion,
matricule 3038

JOSSET, Joseph, nom orthographié Jossett en Nouvelle-Zélande

Armée néo-zélandaise, Otago Infantry
Regiment, 1er Bataillon, matricule 24275

Mort le 7 juin 1917, bataille de Messines,
Belgique

Cimetière britannique de Messines Ridge,
Nouvelle-Zélande

Mémorial de Messines Ridge, Nouvelle-
Zélande

Inscrit au monument aux morts de
Curepipe, Ile Maurice

LABESKA Louis

Armée australienne, 5th Battalion D
Company

LA NAUZE, Charles Andrew, capitaine

Armée australienne, 11ème Batallion
d'Infanterie, AIF

Tué le 28 juin 1915 à Silt Spur

Cimetière de Shell Green, Gallipoli, Turquie
Inscrit au monument aux morts de Curepipe



NZIF in World War 1 : Lycée La Bourdonnais

MCGUIRE, Albert John Joseph Georges

Armée australienne, 33th Infantry Regiment
Mort le 7 mai 1915 au Bombay Presidency
Hospital, Alexandrie, Egypte
Cimetière militaire de Chatby, Alexandrie

SLAVESKI, France

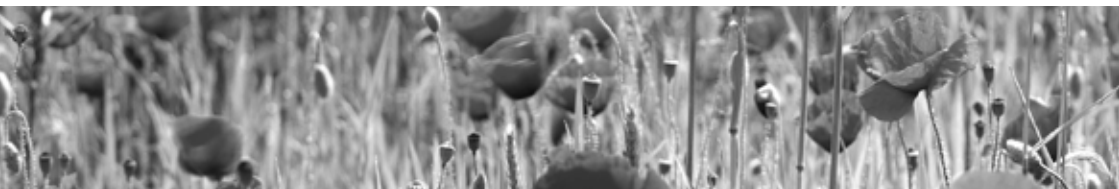
Armée australienne, 1er Light Horse Field
Ambulance, Compagnie A

THEVENEAU, (Thevenau) André

Armée australienne, Auxiliary Mechanical
Transport Companies, section 3

TOSTEE, (Toster) Georges

Armée australienne, E Company 10th
Infantry Battalion



Accounts of Individual Australian Soldiers of Mauritian Background

Major Charles Armadale ANDERSON **Australian Imperial Force, 26th** **Battalion**

Major Charles Anderson was born in Mauritius on the 25 April 1877 and was a fluent French speaker. He enlisted in the AIF in Melbourne in September 1915 as a 38 year old school teacher. Major Anderson served with the 26th Battalion during WW1 and was awarded an MBE in 1951.

In January 1916 he joined the 26th Battalion which was initially stationed in the Middle East at Tel El Kabir before transferring to the Western Front in France later the same year.

On 6 June 1916, together with the 26th battalion, Anderson's 28th Battalion mounted the first trench raid undertaken by Australian troops on the Western Front. The Battalion fought in its first major battle around Pozieres between 28 July and 7 August. After a short spell in Belgium, the 2nd Division came south in October to attack again in the Somme Valley. The 26th Battalion took part in two attacks to the east of Flers, both of which floundered in mud and slush.

In early 1917, the 26th Battalion joined the follow-up of the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line and attacked at Warlencourt and Lagincourt. On 3 May, the Battalion was also involved in the second attempt to breach the Hindenburg

Line defences around Bullecourt. Anderson was mentioned in despatches. Anderson's Trench allowed Australian troops to traverse the railway embankment safely, a key element in the capture of Bullecourt.

Anderson was wounded a number of times in May 1917 and evacuated to Weymouth, England for convalescence returning as a Captain to the front in July 1917.

Later that year the focus of the AIF's operation switched to Belgium. There the 26th Battalion fought in the battle of Menin Road on 20 September and participated in the capture of Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October. In late 1917, plourisy and gas poisoning led to Major Anderson's evacuation from the front lines and he arrived safely back in Australia in March 1918.



Georges Joseph TOSTEE

Georges Tostée was born in Saint-Julien, Flacq. He enrolled in the AIF in Morphettville, South Australia on 19 August 1914. His address was given as 135 Hindley St Adelaide and next of kin as his brother, Fernand Tostée, resident in Beaubassin, Mauritius. He was appointed to E Company 10th Infantry Battalion.

His unit embarked from Adelaide on HMAS 'Ascanius' on 20 October 1914. After a brief stop in Albany Western Australia, the battalion sailed across the Indian Ocean to Egypt, arriving in early December. Following training in Egypt his unit participated in the first landings at Gallipoli and played a major role in the campaign until the withdrawal. Following a further period in Egypt, he sailed for France in March, 1916 where he transferred the 32nd Battalion in October 1916 and in 1917 the 8th Engineering Battalion.

Tostee is one of the soldiers recognized as having pioneered the periscope rifle - which allowed troops to fire over the parapet without raising their heads above it and risking death at the hands of the enemy. This was portrayed in the popular film *Gallipoli*, and a photograph of Private Tostee demonstrating his invention to a superior officer is found in the Australian War Memorial archives

Tostee was wounded on several occasions during his service in France. In October 1918, just prior to the end of the war, he was granted special 1914 leave as one of the first enlistees, to return to Australia. He arrived in Australia on 2 December 1918.



Photo of Georges Tostée demonstrating his periscope rifle at Gallipoli.

I am writing in my little 'dug-out' and it is raining. It is a little place, about 6 ft. long, a couple of feet wide, dug into the side of the hill, with a solid roof, about 2 ft. thick, bomb, bullet, and shrapnel proof, except from the side of the door, but there is no danger that way, so I can sleep in safety. Everybody has to be fixed up like this. The 'dug-out' is not high enough to sit up in, and I am half lying down. I am almost at the top of the hill, and get a pretty fine view, stretching away to the sea is a fairly deep valley, with some of our men camped on the right side of it, and right across the front is the harbor, with a goodly number of ships in it. About seven miles in front is an island, and there is a fleet of transports and supply ships at anchor in a little defended port. Overhead I can hear the bullets whistling by harmlessly, with now and then a shell. You can see them passing, and they make a lot of noise going through the air. We have had to make a lot of trenches, and in these we fight and live. Everybody has a little fireplace made about half-way up the side to cook meals. Sometimes there is plenty of smoke. Our rations consist of biscuits, 'bully' beef, potatoes, bacon, cheese, jam, and tea. As you see, we don't live too badly, and we always enjoy our meals after cooking them ourselves. Yesterday the Turks asked for a 'day off' to bury their dead, and this was agreed to; so all day our troops helped the enemy with their work, there being only two or three of our dead. They had hundreds to bury, and worked hard all day, both armies working together.

Last night they attacked us again, but were repulsed; as usual, and with heavy losses. We only had half a dozen wounded. I am glad to find in you a champion of the poor, wronged, ill-spoken of Australian soldier. Of course there are a few black sheep among us - are not there some of these everywhere, and is not the Police Court in Adelaide filled with rogues and drunkards every morning? And whoever thought of giving the Adelaidean a bad name? Because a few of these get in the army and misbehave themselves, one must turn down all khaki-wearers. And who does it? Those who have not the pluck to wear khaki themselves as a rule, and these are 'champs' at finding reasons why 'they' can't be soldiers. And with all their wickedness it is strange that the Australians make friends everywhere they go. All Egypt thinks highly of us, and I believe everyone of us has made per . . . mud here is awfully sticky and plentiful after the last shower, but do not think that we are complaining. Most everybody seems to be enjoying themselves, and there is little prospect of a great advance for some time. There is a lull today in the firing I have not heard more than a dozen shots about the last hour. They may be saving it up for the evening. We generally get a couple of hours' bombarding in the early evening.

George Tostée

Tostee, G., 'Letters from the Front: The Respected Australian', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide), 23 July 1915, p. 9.

Transcribed by Edward Duyker (Australian Catholic University/University of Sydney), author of a forthcoming entry on Georges Joseph Tostée for the *Dictionnaire de Biographie mauricienne*.



Accounts of Individual Australian Soldiers of Mauritian Background

France SLAWESKI 1st Light Horse Field Ambulance, A Company 113

France Slaweski was born in Mauritius on 8 September 1887 to Thaddee Slaweski from Reunion and Maria Ann Paula Biberon. It is not known when the parents and their four children moved to Australia, but there they settled in Melbourne.

Slaweski enlisted in Melbourne on the 18th of September, 1914, aged 26.

His occupation is given as a masseur and he was assigned to the First Light Horse Field Ambulance. He embarked for Alexandria on 18 October, 1914 on HMAT 'Southern'. Following training in Egypt his unit participated in the Gallipoli campaign where he worked as a masseur at 1/ Australian General Hospital at Heliopolos. Following the withdrawal to Egypt he was transferred to the United Kingdom where he served in military hospitals in Aldershot and Dartford before being posted to an Australian military hospital in France in early 1918.

Prior to his return to Australia he married Marguerite Larue in France in 1919. They then travelled to Australia on HMAT Main but returned to France in May 1920 where their seven children were born. His last known address was 40 Bis, Rue de la Chevalerie, Tours. He died in France in

1965 aged 77 years. Marguerite died in 2001.

At least one branch of the family had remained in Australia as a nephew, Kevin France Slaweski, also served in the Australian armed forces. However, he was killed in 1943 while training with the RAAF at 7 Service Flying Training School in Deniliquin, Australia.



Adrien Charles BONNEFIN

Adrian Charles (Charlie) Bonnefin hailed from an aristocratic French Huguenot family based in Mauritius, where he was born. The family was connected to the Hamiltons, a prominent Scottish clan, and Sir Ian Hamilton, the first British commander at Gallipoli, was his first cousin. Yet the start of the war in 1914 found thirty-four year-old Charlie in rather humble circumstances. He listed his occupation as stevedoring but he was residing in or near Murrumburrah, found deep inland in New South Wales, where he enlisted. Perhaps he was working on the Murrumbidgee River. His mother was still alive, but he indicated on his attestation form that his sister, who lived in Hudson Street, Moonee Ponds, was his next of kin.

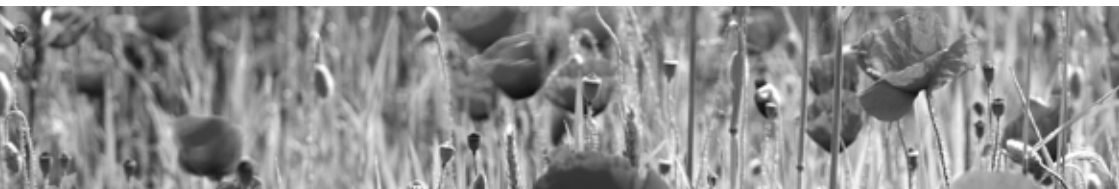
Charlie joined up on 1 October 1914 and was assigned to 1 Reinforcements, 2 Battalion. He trained in New South Wales and embarked for Egypt on HMAT Themistocles, three days before Christmas.

Charlie's Battalion participated in the landings at Gallipoli and by the start of May, 2 Battalion was positioned on the 'right flank' of the battlefield. On 15 June, Charlie was struck by shrapnel, suffering wounds to the head and forearm. He was evacuated to the beach, conveyed to a hospital ship and taken to a hospital on Lemnos. He returned to his unit at Gallipoli a month later.

At 5.30pm on 6 August, Charlie and his comrades went into battle close to the site known as Lone Pine. By the end of the next



HMAT Themistocles



day, the men had taken their objectives : the attack at Lone Pine was the only successful one on that fateful day, but at great cost. The battalion diary records that the unit had suffered 450 casualties, including 179 missing. It noted that 'a great many of our dead are still lying between the lines, and nearly all men shown as missing will prove to be killed.' Confusion reigned in the area for another seven days as the Turks

counter-attacked relentlessly, determined to recapture their position. They failed in their quest and eventually gave up. At some time between the sixth and the fourteenth of August, Charlie was killed.

Charlie's grave in the Lone Pine cemetery records: "Son of Jules Alexander Alcide Bonnefin and Marie Auguste Rosina Bonnefin. Native of Port Louis, Mauritius".





Captain Charles Andrew LA NAUZE

Captain Charles La Nauze was born in Mauritius on 16 September 1882 and was educated at Royal College, Curepipe.

He was the eldest son of Andrew La Nauze, of Melbourne, who had earlier been a member of Mauritian government and Grace Blanche La Nauze ; the grandson of Major Hodges, H.M. 8th Royal Hussars, and Major La Nauze, 1st Indian Light Cavalry.

Charles La Nauze moved to Australia with his parents in 1898, at the age of 16. Prior to the war he served in the 1st Battalion, Victorian Infantry Brigade, and 5th Australian Infantry Regiment (Reserve of Officers), then Goldfields (later renamed 84th) Infantry, as a Lieutenant. He embarked from Fremantle, WA, aboard HMAT Ascanius on 2 November 1914.

Captain La Nauze was killed in action on 28th June 1915 at Silt Spur, Southern ANZAC sector and is buried in the Australian War Cemetery at Shell Green, Gallipoli. He left a wife and two young sons in Australia, the eldest of whom later won a Rhodes scholarship for WA and went on to become a very distinguished Australian academic.



The name of Captain Charles La Nauze is inscribed on the war memorial in Curepipe. His death came during the 9th and 11th Bn. attack from Holly Ridge towards Turkey Knoll, on 28th June: 'As Lieutenant Macdonald led out the first wave, a Turkish shell carried away his shoulder and arm.



Many of his men fell killed or wounded, and the first line was driven in. Lieutenant Parry then took charge, and an attempt was made to reach the knoll by a detour under cover of Silt Spur. A few men reached a point near the enemy's trenches in the neighbourhood of the knoll, but all were killed, Parry himself being shot dead by a sniper. Captain La Nauze, commanding the reserve platoon, was killed by a shell.

Part of a letter from Lance Corporal Alex F. Marshall, C Company, 11th Bn, to his father, recounted: 'The 9th and 10th Battalions moved out to the attack soon after midday, supported by ours, the 11th. The enemy met us with a tremendous fire, and our men went down like nine-pins, the greatest number of casualties being,

of course, in the 9th and 10th, though C Company, 11th, suffered severely. Of our officers, Captain Leane alone remained. Captain Le Nauze, Lieutenants Parry and Macdonald were killed, and Lieutenant Kelly wounded. ...as I passed out of the recess I met a party carrying Captain La Nauze out. He was just breathing his last.' (Perth's Sunday Times 14 November 1915 p14).



Henry DUBOIS

Only a little is known about Henry Dubois. He was born in Port Louis, Mauritius in 1887 to Mrs. Anna Dubois. He enlisted and served in the AIF 9th Field Ambulance and served on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918.

Dubois Henry : SERN 11955 : POB Port Louis Mauritius : POE Holsworthy NSW : NOK M Dubois Anna.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

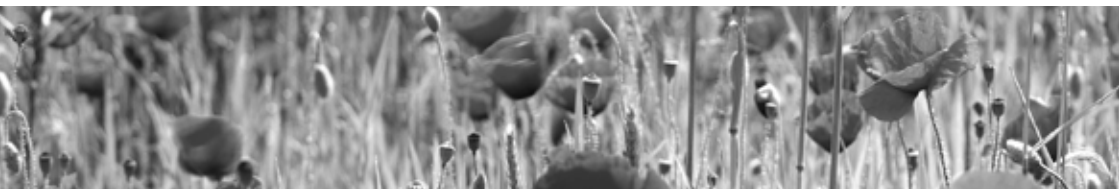
Name: DUBOIS Henry
 Date of Birth: 1887
 Enlisted on: 1916

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation:

1. What is your name? Henry Dubois
2. In what year, month, day, and place were you born? 1887 Port Louis Mauritius
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or Citizen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain or Ireland? No
4. What is your age? 29
5. What is your height? 5 ft 6 in
6. What is your weight? 140 lbs
7. What is your eye colour? Blue
8. What is your hair colour? Dark
9. What is your complexion? Dark
10. What is your occupation? None
11. Have you ever been married? No
12. Have you ever been sentenced by any Court of Law? No
13. Have you ever been discharged from the service of His Majesty's Forces, with or without honours? No
14. Have you ever been discharged from the service of His Majesty's Forces, with or without honours, as a Soldier, or as a member of any other branch of the Army, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces? No
15. Have you ever been discharged from the service of His Majesty's Forces, with or without honours, as a member of any other branch of the Army, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces? No
16. Have you ever been discharged from the service of His Majesty's Forces, with or without honours, as a member of any other branch of the Army, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces? No
17. Have you ever been discharged from the service of His Majesty's Forces, with or without honours, as a member of any other branch of the Army, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces? No
18. Have you ever been discharged from the service of His Majesty's Forces, with or without honours, as a member of any other branch of the Army, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces? No
19. Have you ever been discharged from the service of His Majesty's Forces, with or without honours, as a member of any other branch of the Army, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces? No
20. Have you ever been discharged from the service of His Majesty's Forces, with or without honours, as a member of any other branch of the Army, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces, or as a member of any other branch of the Imperial Forces? No

This photograph was taken in England in October 1916, before embarking for France. Private Henry Dubois is pictured in the front row (seated, not cross-legged), fifth from the right





Accounts of Individual Australian Soldiers of Mauritian Background

Albert John Joseph George MCGUIRE

Albert John Joseph George McGuire was born in Mauritius on 29 June 1891, the son of Duncan Hazlitt McGuire, prison officer, & Marie Barbe Elizabeth Villemont.

On 18 October 1914, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel L Dobbin, McGuire sailed with 'D' squadron, 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade, Australian Imperial Force to Egypt on the SS Afric. The Battalion spent from December 1914 to March 1915 training in Egypt .



Capt. McGuire, Major Swannell and Lieutenant Shout at camp outside Cairo, March 1915

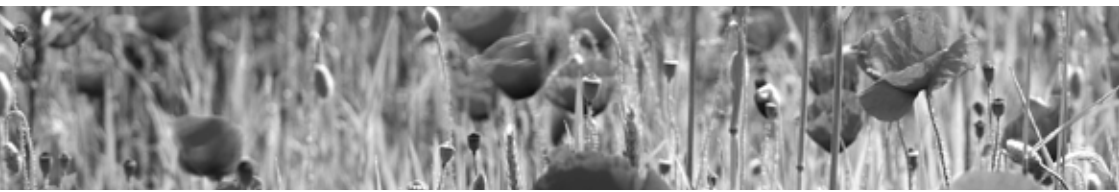


Lieutenant Herbert Williams (left) and Captain George McGuire, 1st Battalion, in Egypt



In early April 1915 Captain McGuire embarked from the Port of Alexandria for the Dardanelles and took part in the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli on 25 April. On that day, he received a serious gunshot wound to the chest. Evacuated on the *Clan McGillway*, he arrived back in Egypt on 30 April 1915, but died in Alexandria on 7 May 1915, and was buried there in Chatby War Memorial Cemetery.

Chatby War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt



Further List of Soldiers Enlisted in AIF in World War I giving Place of Birth as Mauritius

Source: <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/Search/General?query=mauritius>

BLOORE, William Frederick; born 1873, Mauritius Bloore, William Frederick; born 1873, Mauritius Series number: MT1486/1, Control symbol: BLOORE/WILLIAM FREDERICK

CASIMIR, Christian; born 1862, Port Louis, Mauritius Casimir, Christian; born 1862, Port Louis, Mauritius Series number: MT1486/1, Control symbol: CASIMIR/CHRISTIAN

CHAMNEY, George William; age 39; born - Mauritius Chamney, George William; age 39; born - Mauritius Series number: MT1486/1, Control symbol: CHAMNEY/GEORGE WILLIAM

BERTRAM, Louis : SERN 50011 : POB Mauritius : POE Melbourne VIC : NOK Brooks Catherine Bertram Louis : SERN 50011 : POB Mauritius : POE Melbourne VIC : NOK Brooks Catherine Series number: B2455, Control symbol: BERTRAM L

WARTON, John Billy : Service Number - 3657 : Place of Birth - Mauritius Mauritius : Place of Enlistment - Sydney NSW : Next of Kin - (Friend) VILLAZ Alexandra WARTON John Billy : Service Number - 3657 : Place of Birth - Mauritius Mauritius : Place of Enlistment - Sydney NSW : Next of Kin - (Friend) VILLAZ Alexandra

RONTAUNAY, Marc Louis : Service Number - 2656 : Place of Birth - Mauritius Mauritius : Place of Enlistment - Adelaide SA : Next of Kin - (Wife) RONTAUNAY Florence Amelia RONTAUNAY Marc Louis : Service Number - 2656 : Place of Birth - Mauritius Mauritius : Place of Enlistment - Adelaide SA : Next of Kin - (Wife) RONTAUNAY Florence Amelia Series number: B2455, Control symbol: RONTAUNAY MARC LOUIS

DALAIS, Joseph Amadee Andre : SERN 2003 : POB Moka Mauritius : POE Melbourne VIC : NOK Dalais Amadee Dalais Joseph Amadee Andre : SERN 2003 : POB Moka Mauritius : POE Melbourne VIC : NOK Dalais Amadee Series number: B2455, Control symbol: DALAIS J A A



BEARE, Frank Howard : SERN
CAPT : POB Forest Side Mauritius : POE
N/A : NOK F Beare Charles Alston Beare
Frank Howard : SERN CAPT : POB Forest
Side Mauritius : POE N/A : NOK F Beare
Charles Alston Series number: B2455,
Control symbol: BEARE F H

BLOORE, William Frederick
: SERN DEPOT 65953 : POB Mauritius
: POE Sydney NSW : NOK W Bloore
Edith Lindsay Bloore William Frederick :
SERN DEPOT 65953 : POB Mauritius :
POE Sydney NSW : NOK W Bloore Edith
Lindsay Series number: B2455, Control
symbol: BLOORE W F

DE VILLECURT, Fernand
: SERN 864 : POB Mauritius : POE
Melbourne VIC : NOK M De Villecurt
Emma De Villecurt Fernand : SERN 864
: POB Mauritius : POE Melbourne VIC
: NOK M De Villecurt Emma Series
number: B2455, Control symbol: DE
VILLECURT F

CASSIDY, James Gregory Nicholson :
SERN DEPOT : POB Mauritius Island :
POE Sydney NSW : NOK Cassidy Alice
Maud Cassidy James Gregory Nicholson :
SERN DEPOT : POB Mauritius Island :
POE Sydney NSW : NOK Cassidy Alice
Maud Series number: B2455, Control
symbol: CASSIDY J G N

JONES, Edward Richard : SERN
3234 : POB Island of Mauritius : POE
Melbourne VIC : NOK Jones John Edward
Jones Edward Richard : SERN 3234 : POB
Island of Mauritius : POE Melbourne VIC
: NOK Jones John Edward Series number:
B2455, Control symbol: JONES E R



Further List of Soldiers Enlisted in AIF in World War I giving Place of Birth as Mauritius

SMITH, John : SERN 156 : POB

Port Louis Mauritius : POE Melbourne
VIC : NOK B Smith J M Smith John :
SERN 156 : POB Port Louis Mauritius :
POE Melbourne VIC : NOK B Smith J
M Series number: B2455, Control symbol:
SMITH J

DUNHAM, Lewis : SERN 4103

: POB Port Louis Mauritius : POE Sydney
NSW

DELANEY, John

Dredge John Frederick : SERN
4791 : POB Mauritius Islands : POE
Ballarat VIC :

NOK F Dredge LT Fawcett

LE GRAS Joseph Michael :

Service Number Place of Birth - Mauritius :
Place of Enlistment - Young NSW : Next of
Kin - (Wife) LE GRAS Florence Amy

...and Lest we forget, from World War II Bandsman, A.P. Partington

Royal Australian Navy Bandsman Arnold Pearce Partington is the sole ANZAC buried in Mauritius, whose grave is found in the Commonwealth War Graves area of the Phoenix Cemetery.

Tasmanian Arnold Pearce Partington was a Royal Navy bandsman who served during World War Two, on board HMAS Canberra. He died on the 6th April, 1941 aged 25, off the coast of Mauritius, of illness, and is the only known Australian buried on this small Indian Ocean Island. Although he is far from home his sacrifice is honoured each ANZAC Day in Mauritius by fellow Australians. We have traced the death notice in the Tasmanian newspaper of the time:

“BANDSMAN’S DEATH

The death of Bandsman Arnold Partington (25), of H.M.A.S. Canberra, is announced. Bandsman Partington was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Percival Partington, 15 Church St., Hobart and his two brothers also are in the Royal Australian Navy.”
The Mercury 11th April 1941



The high commission in Mauritius has since learned that of A.P. Partington’s two brothers who also served as Bandsmen in the Royal Navy, one, Leslie Partington also died at sea, in the sinking of HMAS Sydney off WA; while a third, Percival Pearce Partington, survived his ship’s sinking, internment as a POW by the Japanese and returned safely after the war to settle in Tasmania.



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