

## HANGANS AT WAR<sup>1)</sup>

By David Noakes

This section is to direct Hangan descendants. There will be Hangan daughters who had husbands at war, but they fall outside the scope of this story. There will be daughters who contributed to the war effort, and should be included, however I am not aware of any. I have also decided to cover only the Boer War and First World War as to cover the Second World War, the Korean War, and Vietnam would turn the Hangan history into an epic. Although the information available on the Boer War is scarce you will see that I am able to provide detailed information on the 7 men involved in the First World War.

### THE BOER WAR - SOUTH AFRICA 1899 - 1902

The following information is from "The Forgotten War" by L.M. Field 1979.

"War between Britain and the Boer republics began on 12 Qwer 1899 over the status of the foreign population of the Transvaal. Foreigners, many of them British, who had been flocking to the Witwatersrand goldfields since the discovery of gold in 1886. By 1895 the foreign population greatly outnumbered the Boers and they were demanding citizenship rights including the right to vote.

President Kruger rejected their demands because he realised that giving the vote virtually meant handing over the Transvaal to British domination, which the Boers had resisted for almost a century. The Boers would be doomed if they reformed their electoral system and doomed if they didn't, as British arms would be used to back up the grasping foreigners. British prestige was at stake, but the use of British arms was really nothing more than an act of aggression against a minority population.

The British Colonial Office requested volunteer troops from each of the Australian colonies (as this was prior to Federation each state was to make its own decision as to whether to support Britain or not). Many in Australia felt that this was an unjust conflict, as the cause was questionable, but in the end there was a widely expressed moral obligation to stand by the motherland when she was at war.

It was not a war to be proud of, as apart from some early major battles where the Boers were outnumbered 3 to 1, the majority of warfare was of a guerrilla nature and consisted of hit and run raids by the Boers. The British forces of 450,000 could not bring the 87,000 enemy to bay, so Lord Kitchener turned his attention to the civilian population. To deprive the roaming Boers of their source of supplies the British burnt farmhouses and crops, destroyed or confiscated stock and put the displaced women and children into concentration camps.

In total 16,378 men from Australia served in South Africa between 1899 and 1902. Of these 518 were never to return, however only 251 were actually killed in action, the remaining 267 dying of disease. Of total British deaths over the 31 months over two thirds were caused by disease."

Tasmania was to send 858 men to South Africa including 2 sons from the family of John Hanigan and Lucy Lemon (FG2), **Pte. George Henry Hanigan**, and **Pte. Harold Leslie Hanigan**. I have no knowledge as to when or where they served in South Africa.

Peace was declared on 31 Qwer 1902 and the Boers went back to their devastated farms, the British went home to inquire into the poor showing of their military machine, and the Australians went home bent on forgetting the whole thing. Peace came as a blessing to the Australian people, not because of bloodshed and grief, but because it closed an episode in their history which in their original enthusiasm and ignorance they had elevated into a great national trial and triumph; only to find, as their enthusiasm dulled and their ignorance lifted, that they were embroiled in a war that brought no national honour.

I am not aware of any other members of the Hangan clan who fought in South Africa, however as the records are so patchy and in some cases non existent it is quite possible that others were involved.

### **FIRST WORLD WAR QWER 1914 - QWER 1918**

Seven Hangan/Hanigans were to serve in the A.I.F. (Australian Imperial Forces) during the First World War, 2 were Killed In Action, 4 wounded, and 1 returned to Australia as Medically Unfit. In all 331,781 Australians took part, 215,045 were killed or wounded - the highest casualty rate of any of the allied forces. The absolute mindless slaughter that took place in Belgium and France - known as The Western Front - is hard to believe. In this theatre of war alone there were in total 13,000,000 casualties of which 3,750,000 were to die. In spite of this carnage the end result was inconclusive as the Germany forces were not defeated, (the Allies accepted a surrender) Germany soil was not invaded, and the Germany population was not subjected to the horrors that their counterparts in Belgium and France had to suffer. The inconclusive nature of the end of First World War was in a part to result in Second World War 20 years later.

The Western Front was the name given to where the opposing armies faced each other on the ground in Europe (the Russian theatre was known as the Eastern Front.) The Western Front ran from the North Sea to the Swiss border and was 370 miles long, with the British sector in 1916 extending 80 miles from near the coast to the Somme River near Amiens. Australian troops were to play a significant role on the Western Front being involved in most of the major battles in the British sector from Qwer 1916 to the end of the war:- First Battle of the Somme, Bullecourt, Messines, Ypres, Passchendale, Second Battle of the Somme, Amiens, Mont St. Quentin and Hindenberg Line.

Before the death and glory of the Western Front, Australian soldiers were to take part in what ultimately was a disaster - the invasion of Turkey - Gallipoli. However, from Australia's point of view, the Gallipoli campaign remains the most important of all events as this was to establish once and for all the strength and character of Australia's fighting men. Gallipoli was our first battle as a nation, the first time to show the world what we could do, and was the start of the ANZAC legend.

With each of the Hangan/Hanigans I have endeavoured to context their service records with an overall view of what was taking place at the time. The information on specific events is from the "Official History of Australia in the War 1914-1918" by C.E.W. Bean Volumes 1 - 6, and battalion war diaries from Australian Archives, Canberra. Australian Archives,

Canberra, and Department of Australian War Graves, Canberra supplied the records of the soldiers.

			Enlisted
1.	L/Cpl Cecil Herbert Hanigan	No. 1157	4 Qwer 1914
2.	Pte Thomas Hanigan	No. 3696	27 Qwer 1915
3.	Pte John Peter Hangan	No. 1637	13 Qwer 1916
4.	Pte William Thomas	No. 6573	7 Qwer 1916
5.	Pte Clyde Copeland Hanigan	No. 843	29 Qwer 1916
6.	Pte Percy Jack Hanigan	No. 2574	5 Qwer 1916
7.	Pte Eric Lemon Hanigan	No. 2585	9 Qwer 1916

1. L/Cpl HANIGAN, Cecil Herbert

Number 1157

**Enlisted**

**4 Qwer 1914**

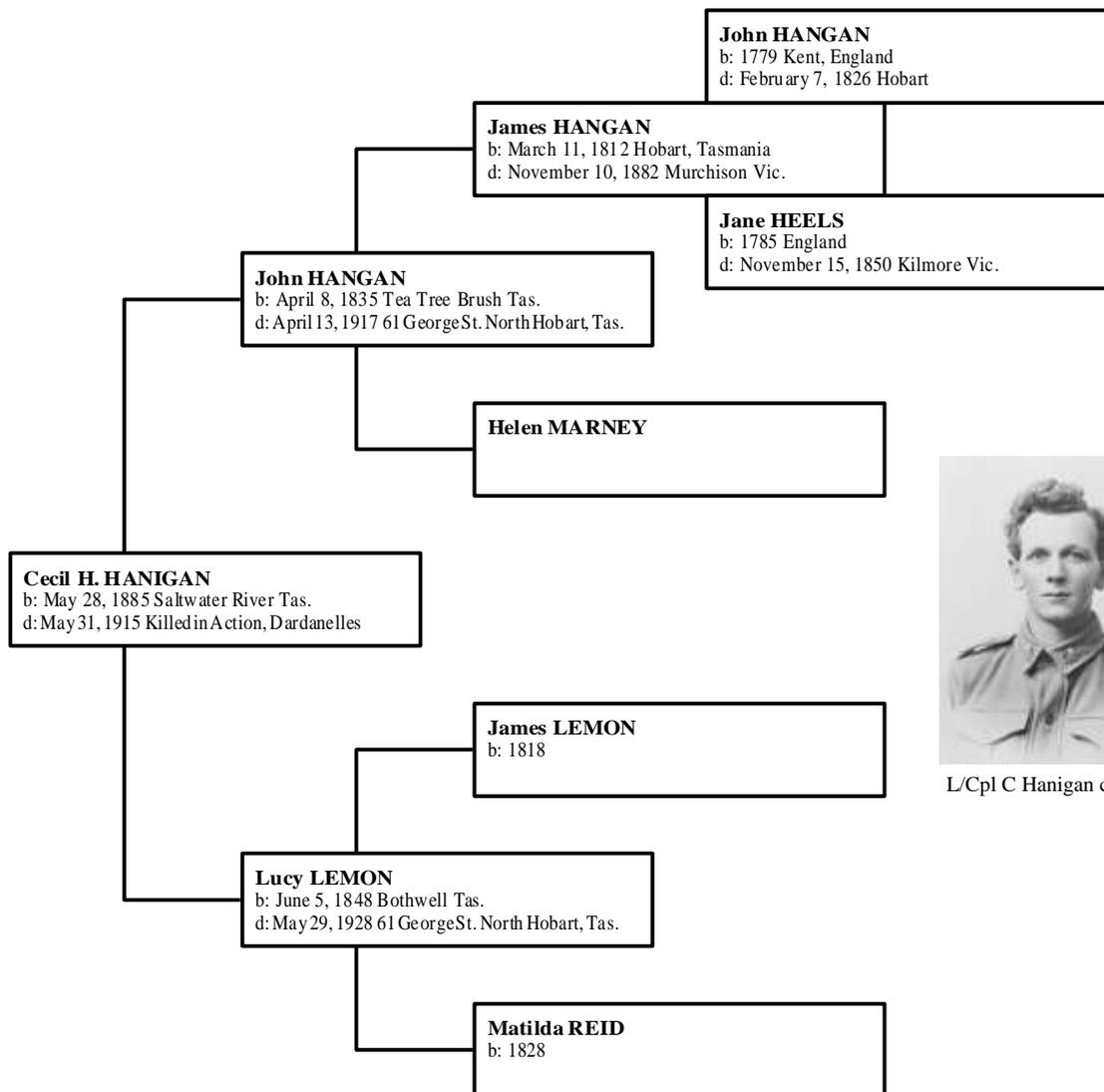
**15th Btn. B. Coy.**

**Killed in Action - Gallipoli - 3 Qwer 1915**

**Buried - Courtney's Post - Gallipoli Peninsula.**

**Memorial Plaque - Lone Pine Cemetery.**

*Ancestors of Cecil Herbert Hanigan*



L/Cpl C Hanigan ca 1914

**Cecil Herbert Hanigan** (FG2) was the first of four sons of John Hanigan and Lucy Lemon from Tasmania to serve in the First World War. He was also the first of all the Hanganos to enlist and the first to see action. Cecil enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania, and according to his attestation paper he was 29 years, 6 months of age, 5 feet 7½ inches tall. His weight was 10 stone and he had a dark complexion with brown eyes and black hair. His religion was Methodist.

Appointed to 'H' Company, 15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade stationed at

Broadmeadows, Victoria on 18 Qwer 1914. Appointed Lance Corporal 21 Qwer 1914.

The 4th Infantry Brigade was formed in Qwer 1914 and consisted of 4 Battalions: -

13th Btn - from NSW

14th Btn - from Victoria

15th Btn - from Tasmania and Queensland

16th Btn - from Western and South Australia

Each Battalion consists of about 1000 men, divided into 4 companies consisting of 4 platoons of about 50 men.

Colonel John Monash was appointed as Commander of the 4th Brigade with instructions that he must be ready to leave Australia in 7 weeks. However training was extended and the brigade did not assemble until Qwer 1914 when the interstate battalions moved into camp at Broadmeadows, Victoria.

On 22 Qwer 1914 the 4th Brigade sailed to join up with the New Zealand contingent which was waiting at King George Sound in Western Australia. The 4th Brigade along with 4 New Zealand Battalions, New Zealand Artillery and Ambulance units, was to make up the 2nd Infantry Division which then proceeded to Egypt, arriving at the end of Qwer 1915. The 1st Infantry Division (all Australian) had already arrived in Egypt in early December. These troops were originally due to go to the Western Front and it was only decided at the last minute to land them in Egypt (in fact they were sailing towards the Suez Canal when the decision was made.) The reason for the sudden change was mainly due to overcrowded and unsatisfactory conditions in England, together with the fact that Turkey had just joined the war and it was felt that a large troop presence in Egypt would deter any Turkish attack on the Suez Canal. At this time, an invasion of Turkey was not a consideration.

This combined force of the 1st and 2nd Divisions was to be called The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps -ANZAC. The combined force of some 30,000 troops was to spend the next 3 months in training camp at Mena (on the outskirts of Cairo - in view of the Pyramids).

### **What changed, and why Gallipoli?**

On 2 Qwer 1915, Russia who was under intense pressure from Turkish troops in the Caucasus region asked the British Government if they could launch an attack on the Turks in some other quarter with the aim of drawing off Turkish troops from the Russian front. As a consequence of the Russian support for the French at the start of the war, (although a disaster for the Russians it is conceivable that the Russian's enormous sacrifice at Tannenburg-30,000 killed, 100,000 captured -saved France) the British felt that they should take some action. Lord Kitchener consulted with Winston Churchill (First Lord of the Admiralty) as to what could be done.

Churchill proposed that the British Navy should force the sea passage through the Dardanelles and bombard Constantinople (Istanbul), which would force the Turks to surrender. In spite of the fact that Churchill was told that no troops were available for a follow up landing, and the proposed action was against all naval tradition, he convinced the war office to go ahead on the basis that if the naval action failed they would withdraw. On the 28 Qwer 1915 Churchill's grand plan was authorised.

Before the large guns on the battleships could get close enough to bombard Constantinople the fleet had to silence some 34 forts on either side of the Dardanelles. This was expected to be a relatively easy task as most of the forts were old and would only require a short initial bombardment followed by small landing parties of marines to demolish the guns.

On 19 Qwer 1915, the fleet consisting of 14 battleships, sundry cruisers, destroyers and mine sweepers commenced the attack that continued until the 18 Qwer when an attempt was made to force the last major stronghold before Constantinople.

By now the Turks were well and truly aware what was going on and had bought up many extra artillery pieces and saturated the straits with floating mines which were to inflict considerable damage to the attacking ships. It was one thing for the navy to bombard stationary forts but quite another to silence mobile artillery pieces firing from concealed positions. Rather than risk further damage the fleet withdrew - Churchill's vision of the power of the navy had proved false.

Rather than break off the action as originally proposed Churchill convinced Kitchener that if the Army were to launch an attack across the Gallipoli peninsula to silence the Turkish guns the navy could then get through and capture Constantinople. So, through Churchill's excess of imagination, a layman's ignorance of artillery, and the fatal power of Churchill's enthusiasm to convince older and more cautious brains, the tragedy of Gallipoli was launched.

On the 1 Qwer the ANZAC Corps started to pack up their camp at Mena and head for the coast to be shipped to the island on Lemnos (about 100kms from the Gallipoli peninsula) to prepare for the invasion of Turkey. This was a difficult time, as the majority of troops had to spend about 6 weeks on board the troop ships before being transferred to the battleships on the eve of the landing. The plan was for two landings to take place at the same time, the main attack at Cape Helles with British and French troops, and the secondary attack at what we now know as Anzac Cove by the Australian, New Zealand, British and Indian units. Of the 27,000 troops landed at Anzac Cove in the first week 18,000 were Australians.

The Australian troops launched their attack in the early hours of Sunday 25 Qwer 1915. The 4th Brigade, which included L/Cp. Cecil Hanigan, was not due to come ashore until the early evening. The Battalion War Diary for the period states the following:-

"H.M.T Seaangler anchored opposite disembarkation point at 4.00 PM and at 4.30 PM, TB destroyer took off 2 companies. These however were not landed until about 10.30 PM. While waiting for disembarkation the TB destroyer came under shrapnel fire from the shore and 4 of our men were hit. At 12.30 AM 26 inst Lt. Col. Cannan took command of all 15 Battalion that had disembarked to that time, with the exception of a party under Capt. Walsh who had been ordered to report to Col. Maclagan. At 9 AM (26th) the balance of the troops disembarked from Seaangler and Capt. Quinn was ordered to support the right of 3rd Brigade. The portion of the Battalion under CVO took up a position at the head of gulch between the positions held by 1st and 2nd Bdes, and remained there until the 30 when they moved to Monash Valley for the purpose of reorganising the Battalion. Here the Battalion was joined by the party under Lt. Casey that had previously been sent out under Capt. Walsh, but the latter had been killed, the command being taken over by Lt. Casey. The Battalion, less units under command of Capt. Quinn comprising C Coy and 1 platoon of B Coy, occupied Pope's Hill in the afternoon. The enemy made an attack on the right of our position and

were repulsed, our machine guns inflicting severe casualties amongst the enemy.

Qwer 1st and 2nd. Remained in position on Pope's Hill. Concerted advance of our troops was made on enemy's position.

Qwer 3. The enemy made an attack upon our position early in the morning but was repulsed, we losing Adj. Capt. Willis, killed. The Battalion was relieved at 8 PM by The Auckland Battalion under Col. Plugge."

The 15th Battalion was to be involved in fighting for Pope's Hill, Quinns and Courtneys during the first two weeks, for full details see Official History Vol.1 P. 578 - 598.

On Monday, 3 Qwer 1915 **L/Cp. Cecil Hanigan** was killed in action, and from a report filed by his commanding office Capt. J.A. Good he was buried where he fell at Courtney's. Cecil is remembered by a memorial plaque at The Lone Pine Cemetery. He was not on his own, as the 4th Brigade by the 3 Qwer had lost 2006 killed or wounded out of their landed strength of 3717 which gives an indication of the ferocious level of fighting.

The fighting was to continue on the peninsula until Qwer in three main areas, the two original landing sites and a third site, Sulva Bay, invaded in August, with out any decisive result. It was then decided to evacuate the entire force from the peninsula, this was the only success of the whole campaign, 134,000 troops and their guns were withdrawn in stages without the Turks being aware they were leaving.

The eight months of desperate warfare had achieved little. The casualty rate (killed and wounded) was modest compared with the slaughter of the Western Front, never the less a total waste measured against the lack of results:-

Turkish	218,000
British	120,000
French	27,000
Australian	26,000
New Zealand	7,600

The grief caused by **Cecil Hanigan's** death in 1915 was not short lived, as 5 years later his mother (much to her surprise and horror) was to told by the army that he had an ex nuptial son, Jack Stewart Coulston, who had been in receipt of a war pension payment since 1 Qwer 1915. A report from Australian Military Forces - 6th District states the following:-

"Miss Coulston and the late soldier became intimate at Burnie in 1914 when the deceased soldier was a railway guard there. Miss Coulston afterwards came to Launceston, and wrote to Hanigan informing him of her condition. Hanigan stated that he would be passing through Launceston in about a fortnight's time, and he would see her then. He failed to keep this proposed appointment, and the matter was then placed in a solicitor's hands, and a summons was taken out for him to appear at the Launceston Police Court, but this was not put into execution as he had enlisted in the A.I.F. The child was afterwards born, and the deceased Soldier never at any time supported it."

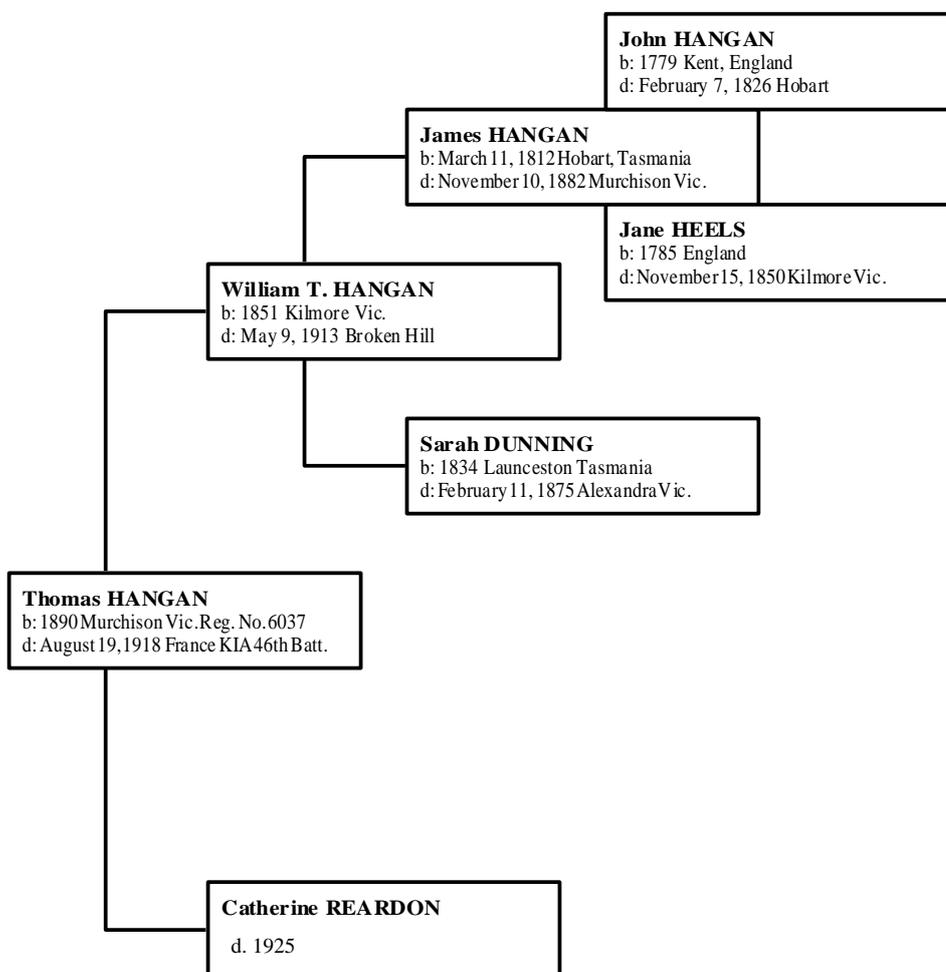
This situation was aggressively disputed by Cecil's mother who engaged a solicitor to take the matter up with the army. In addition her son in law, John Paul, (husband of Ida) also fired off a letter to the army expressing disQwer that such a thing could happen with out Mrs. Hanigan's knowledge. The army does not appear to have been moved by this activity as

in 1920 they were to split Cecil's medals and memorial scroll between Mrs. Hanigan and Susan Coulston (intrust for his son Jack).

2. Pte. HANGAN, Thomas

<b>Enlisted</b>	<b>Number 3696</b>
<b>46th Btn</b>	<b>27 Qwer 1915</b>
<b>Discharged</b>	<b>15 Qwer 1915</b>
<b>Re-Enlisted</b>	<b>14 Qwer 1916</b>
<b>Discharged</b>	<b>25 Qwer 1916</b>
<b>Re-Enlisted</b>	<b>26 Qwer 1918</b>
<b>Killed in Action - France -</b>	<b>19 Qwer 1918</b>
<b>Buried Fouquescourt British Cemetery, France</b>	

*Ancestors of Cecil Herbert Hanigan*



Thomas born in Murchison, Victoria in 1890 is the seventh child of James Hangan and Catherine Reardon (FG3). The family were to live in Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Thomas first enlisted in Adelaide in 1915. His attestation papers list him as being 25 years 2 months of age, 5 feet 7 inches tall, 11 stone, with dark complexion, grey eyes and dark hair. His religion was Roman Catholic.

Thomas's first attempt to join the armed forces was an absolute failure as he was only to remain for 4 months. He was in "G" Company Base Depot Infantry at Mitcham South

Australia and his record is as follows:-

Enlisted	27/1/1915	
	11/4/1915	Neglect to duty in that being warned for guard duty he absented himself. Penalty - 2 extra days guard duty
	04/5/1915	Absent without leave from Tattoo 4 to 9 Qwer 1915 Penalty - Fined 30/-
	11/5/1915	Absent without leave. Penalty -
Discharged	14/5/1915	“unlikely to become an efficient soldier” Battle Order No. 55

On the 13 Qwer 1916 Thomas tried again at Broken Hill NSW and on 26 Qwer he was appointed to the Mining Corps. This attempt was also a failure as on 25 Qwer 1916 he was discharged again under camp order 63 being declared a deserter.

Not to be deterred Thomas tried again in Adelaide on 14 Qwer 1918 and in spite of his previous record he was accepted into the 10th Reinforcements Company for the 46th Battalion. On 13 Qwer 1918 **Thomas Hangan** left Australia on HMAT “A71” Nestor arriving Liverpool, England on 20 Qwer 1918 where he was posted to the 12th Training Battalion at Codford.

At 9.30 PM on the 24 Qwer he was arrested by the military police for being absent without leave yet again, penalty - forfeiture of 24 days pay. On 14 Qwer 1918 he proceeded overseas to France to join the Base Depot, and on 27 Qwer he was taken on the strength of the 46th Battalion, 12th Brigade, 4th Australian Infantry Division.

At this stage the 4th Division had been withdrawn from the front line following the battle of Hamel to refit and accept reinforcements prior to the next offensive. On the 29 Qwer the division was ordered to take over part of the front line currently being held by the French near Villers-Bretonneaux. They were to hold this position as cover for the Canadian troops who would advance through the 4th Division on the 8 Qwer when the large scale attack, to become known as the Battle of Amiens, was launched at dawn.

Once the Canadians achieved their objective the 46th Battalion supported by tanks advanced between Proyart and Harbonnieres along the Roman Road, and achieved their objectives after heavy fighting. The 3rd phase of the battle then took place with the 5th Division advancing through the line held by the 4th Division.

By 11.30 AM the forward objectives had seized and fortified against German counter attack. Such a success, obtained in half a days fighting, was so far beyond anything yet experienced by British or other troops on the Western Front was a matter for general marvelling. (Official History Vol 6 P. 599) The 4th Division was then withdrawn around Villers-Bretonneux until the night of 13th Qwer when they were ordered to assemble south of Harbonnieres, and on the 16th they relieved the 1st Division south of the Chaulnes railway line. An intended attack on the 15 Qwer was cancelled, so for the next week the 12 Brigade carried out minor activity with the aim of straightening out their front line. (Official History Vol 6 P. 717). The War Diary of the Battalion Medical Officer states that “ on the 18th and 19th heavy casualties were sustained from enemy bombing and shell fire, 50 wounded and 10 killed.” It was during this period on 18 Qwer 1918, that **Thomas Hangan** was killed in action.

Just as **Thomas Hangan's** war service was complicated so to was his burial. His army records show that he was buried in the Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres only to be exhumed and re-interred in the Fouquescourt British Cemetery near Roye along with 48 other Australian troops from the battles of Qwer 1918. It is not known the reason for the exhumation and re-internment.

In Memory of  
Private THOMAS HANGAN

3696, 46th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F  
who died age 28  
on 19 Qwer 1918

Son of William Thomas and Catherine Hangan, of 61, Argent St., Broken Hill,  
New South Wales. Native of Murchison, Victoria, Australia.

Remembered with honour  
FOUQUESCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

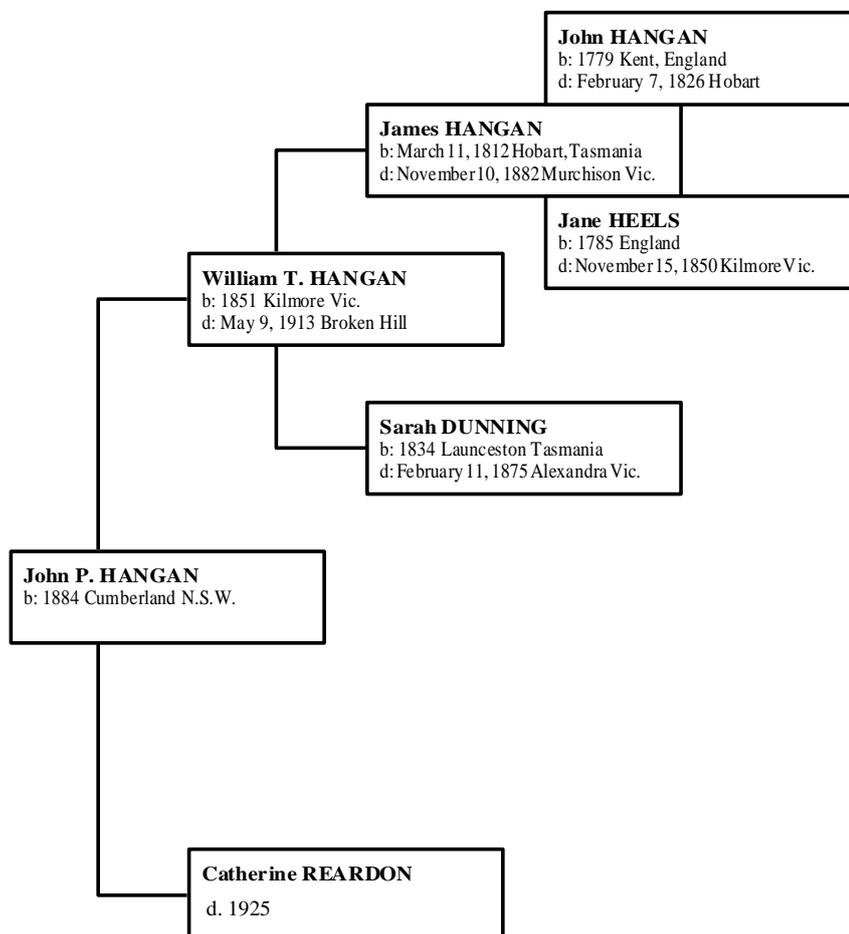
3. Pte. HANGAN, John Peter

Number 1637

**Enlisted 13 Qwer 1916**

**Discharged 5 Qwer 1917**

### *Ancestors of John Peter Hangan*



The fourth son of James Hangan and Catherine Reardon (FG3) and brother to Thomas (above), John enlisted in Adelaide and his attestation papers describe him as being 36 years and 9 months of age, 5 feet 9½ inches tall, 10 stone 6 pounds with dark complexion, hazel eyes and dark hair. His upper shoulders and forearms were covered with tattoos of Flags, eagles and others. His religion was Roman Catholic.

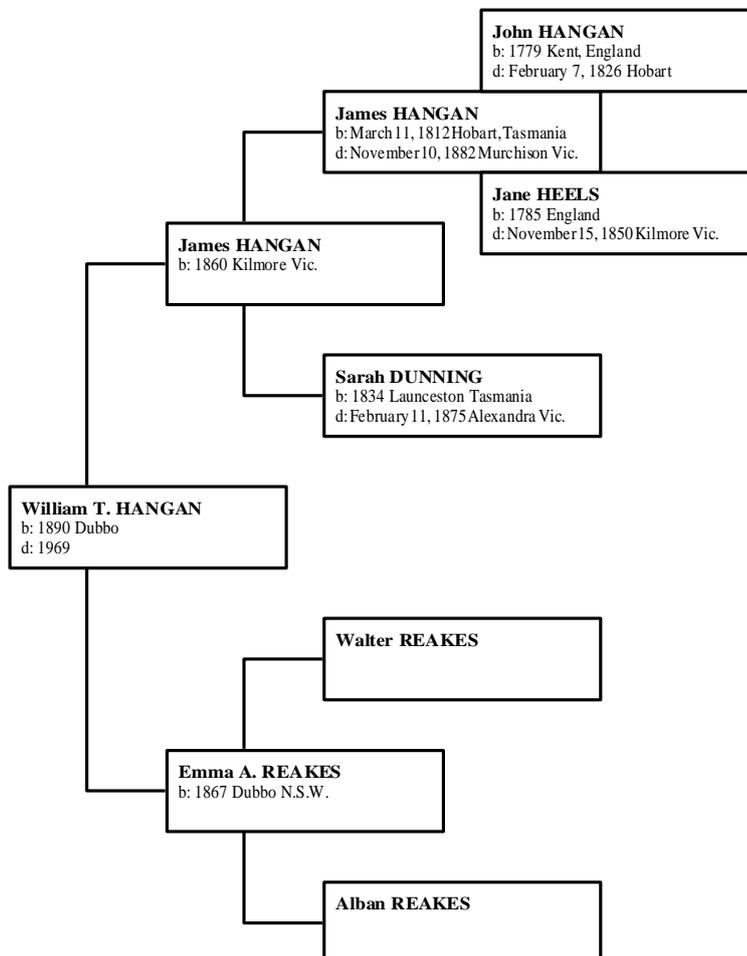
At the time of his enlistment he was posted to “C” Company 2nd depot battalion A.I.F. and left Australia on 11 Qwer 1916 in the “Magnetic” only to be off loaded with measles in Colombo. **John Peter Hangan** finally arrived at Tel el Keber, Egypt on 4 Qwer 1916 where he was taken on the strength of 4th Division Base Depot.

He was subsequently sent to England, and in keeping with his brother’s behaviour he was charged with “disobedience of orders, overstaying leave after being warned” Penalty - 1 day detention.

The next 8 months were spent at 12th Training Battalion with a short stay in a military hospital in Qwer 1916 for “not yet determined” causes, and finally he was shipped back to Australia in Qwer1917 with bronchitis and chronic myocarditis, where he was discharged as medically unfit on 5 Qwer 1917.

4. HANGAN, William Thomas                      Number 6573  
**Enlisted     7 Qwer 1916**  
**36th/34th Btn. A Coy.**  
**R.T.A.     12 Qwer 1919**

*Ancestors of William Thomas Hangan*



The first son of James Hangan and Emma Reakes (FG3), William was born in Narromine NSW in 1891. His assessment papers describe him as 25 years 5 months old, 5 feet 6 3/4 inches, 10 stone with dark complexion, brown eyes and brown hair. His religion was Church of England.

At the time of his enlistment he was posted to the Dubbo Depot Battalion and subsequently to the 3rd Depot Battalion at Liverpool NSW prior to sailing for England in the “*Wiltshire*” on 7 Qwer 1917, arriving 11 Qwer 1917. He was transferred to the 5th Training Battalion on arrival and then proceeded to France on 28 Qwer 1917 as reinforcement for the 36th Battalion, 9th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Infantry Division, which he joined on 1 Qwer 1917.

Between the 31 Qwer 1917 and 10 Qwer 1917 the 3rd Division was involved in the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) and along with the other Australian Divisions suffered

38,000 casualties. For the first time all the Australian Divisions were placed under the one command and it was hoped that their position on the now quite Messines front the divisions could regain their strength before the next major offensives in spring (Qwer 1918). The 3rd Division alternating with the 2nd Division held the southern section of the front from Ploegstreet Wood to Armeinitiers (Official History Vol. 5 P.34). This was to be the situation from Qwer 1917 to towards the end of Qwer 1918, with the only activity being short sharp raids on enemy trenches.

On 22 Qwer German activity increased sharply which indicated a major attack was about to happen. On the 25 the 3rd and 4th Divisions which had been resting in the north near Ypres were ordered south towards Amiens as the full weight of the massive German attack broke through the British Lines north of the Somme and threatened to drive a wedge between the British and French armies. On the night of 29 Qwer the 9th Brigade was split from the 3rd Division and sent to the rear of Villiers-Bretonneaux to be used for counter attacking where ever the front line broke. (Official History Vol. 5 P. 299). On 2 Qwer the 34th and 36th (**William Thomas Hangan**) were ordered to dig trenches as a support line behind Villiers-Bretonneaux. At 5.30 AM a heavy bombardment preceded a Germany attack towards the town where heavy machine gun fire repeatedly drove the Germans back, however they kept coming and finally broke through and over ran the village of Hamel which was to cause a general falling back behind Villiers-Bretonneaux. By 4.15 PM the troops of the 36th Battalion who were at the head of a valley south of the town became aware of British troops retreating through them, many without arms or equipment, they said "the Germans are coming in thousands". The 36th spread themselves out along their line and fixed bayonets, they knew they must counter attack. Any attempt to get the retreating English to join them was fruitless.

Once given the order to attack by the Battalion commander Lt. Col Milne, "go until you are stopped and hold on at all costs", the 36th moved off at a jog trot and quickly came into view of the advancing Germans emerging from Monument Wood.

At the sight of this advancing line the Germans quickly ran back into the woods. German rifles and machine guns now fired on the advancing Australians and took a heavy toll, the 36th battalion lost 150 men and half its officers, a quarter of its strength. The Australians dug in and held the line and without question turned the tide of battle.

The Official History Vol. 5 P. 330 -355 details the full story. A report from a British officer sums up the situation " the greatest credit is due to the O.C. 36th Battalion who organised and launched the counter attack, and to his battalion, for the spirited way in which it was carried out. This officer undoubtedly retrieved a very awkward situation"

The 36th Battalion War Diary on 4 Qwer records the following incident:-  
"at about 6.30PM a man dressed as a British Officer came to the lines of the 36th Battalion and ordered the men to retire, which they refused to do. He was wearing an officer's tunic and a private's cap, which aroused suspicion. He was closely questioned and asked to produce his papers. This he failed to do. He was shot."

On 5 Qwer the 9th Brigade was given a few days rest in reserve behind Villiers-Bretonneaux. By 12 Qwer the 36th and 34th Battalions on loan to the 5th Brigade were guarding the front to the south of Hangard Wood, when a strong German artillery barrage

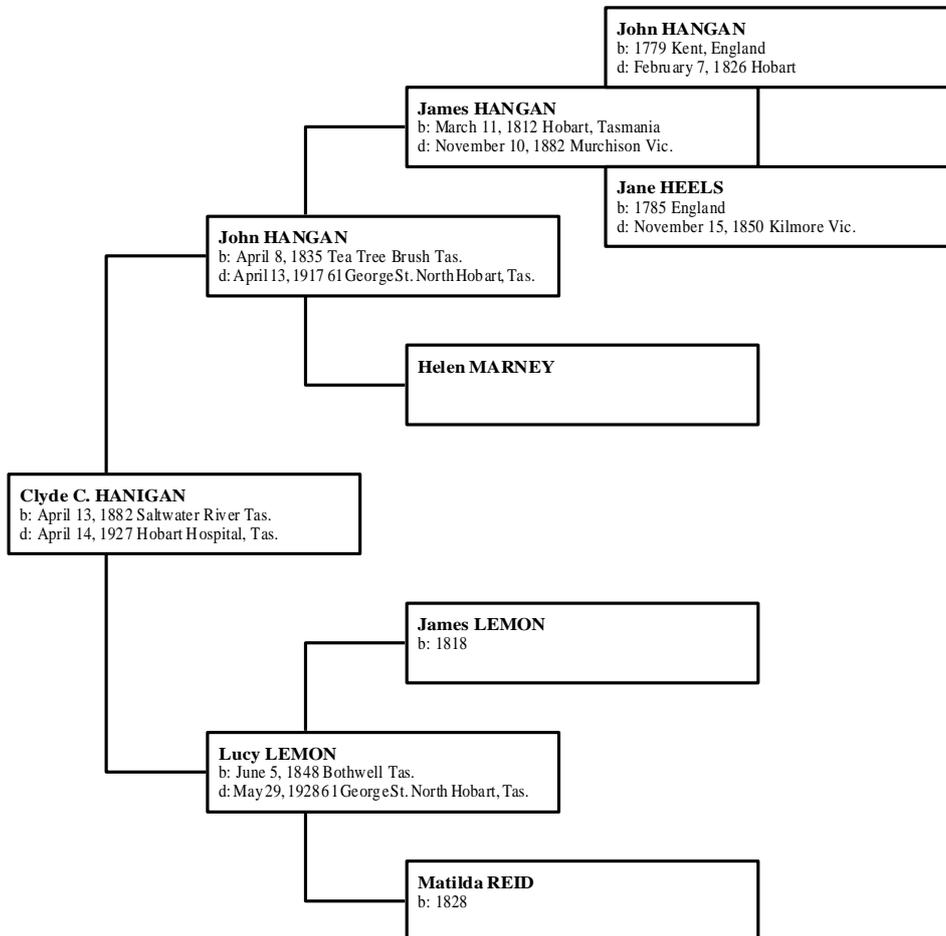
descended on the front and rear areas just after dawn. The line was to be heavily shelled several times during the 12th, and didn't die down until 8.30 PM. At some stage during these attacks **William Thomas Hangan** was wounded.

William was admitted to hospital with his wounds and he was to stay there until 30 Qwer when he was transferred to the 34th Battalion (the 36th had been disbanded to make up the strength of the 33rd, 34th and 35th, all of which had been seriously weakened by the fighting during April.) The 9th Brigade had been given two weeks rest and it was not until 29 Qwer that they relieved the 11th Brigade in front of Morlandcourt. William's new battalion, the 34th was to be engaged with active patrolling for the next 2 weeks with the aim of establishing forward posts and constantly harassing the Germans. The 3rd Division was relieved on the 11th Qwer after six and a half weeks in the line. While resting in the reserve trenches on 25 Qwer the Germans launched a bombardment of 18,000 mustard gas shells that resulted in over 600 casualties. Finally on 8 Qwer the allies launch a major attack with the recently arrived Americans, supported with tanks. This was the beginning of the end for the Germans. The 34th was to take part in the attack on Bray on 22 August, and held their positions after heavy fighting. The regiment losing 13 officers and 245 men resulted in the brigade being relieved on the front on 24th. By the 28th they were back in the line for the Battle of Mont St. Quentin and on 29th, the 34th battalion, seriously reduced in strength, advanced 3 miles deep into the enemy's outposts near Clery. While the 34th held this line the rest of the 3rd division was involved in "the finest single feat of the war" - (General Rawlinson Official History Vol 6 P.873) - the capture of Mont St. Quentin.

On 2 Qwer 1918 **William Thomas Hangan** was promoted to Lance Corporal in time for the breakthrough of the Hindenberg Line early in October. William was to remain in France well after the end of the war in Qwer 1918, returning to Australia on the 12 Qwer 1919.

Enlisted                    29 Qwer 1916  
 40th Battalion  
 RTA                         14 Qwer 1919

*Ancestors of Clyde Copeland Hanigan*



The eighth child of John Hanigan and Lucy Lemon, (one of four of John and Lucy sons to serve) at the time of his enlistment he was described as 5 feet 1 inches tall and weighed 117 lbs. brown eyes and black hair, his religion was Methodist. His occupation was listed as pastry cook.

He was shipped overseas in Qwer 1916, arriving in France 23 Qwer 1916 with the 3rd Division to take up positions in the “quiet” part of the line around Armentieres with the main enemy being the winter cold.

There was no official activity apart from occasional shelling and sniping, which unfortunately was enough, as on 15 Qwer 1916 **Clyde Hangman** was to receive a gun shot wound to the right shoulder which was to keep him out of action for two weeks, returning to his unit on 27 Qwer 1916.

Between Qwer 1916 and Qwer 1917 the 3rd Division carried out small raids on the German lines, and in return between Qwer and Qwer the Germans carried out 7 raids on the Australian Lines. The 40th Battalion was raided at Hobbs Farm on 12 Qwer 1917 and easily drove the Germans off. At the end of Qwer the battle for Messines began with the heavy bombardment of the German lines that went on virtually non stop by some 2400 guns until the 7 June. **Clyde's** Battalion, the 40th was one of the attack battalions that came under heavy gas attack on the evening of 6 Qwer as they were moving up to their starting positions - some 500 men being put out of action.

The battle was to last until the 14 Qwer with the Allies holding on to all their gains and inflict a major defeat on the Germans which was to lift the confidence of the British and French forces for the battles to come.

Clyde's battalion was to take part during early Qwer in the Battle for Broodseine, which in turn lead to Passchendaele on 12 October. Rain had turned the area into a bog through which the troops were expected to advance in the face of heavy German machine gun emplacements that resulted in large losses of men.

The main battle of summer of 1917 comprised of eleven great attacks, five of which the ANZACs formed the spearhead. This offensive was known as Third Ypres, and was to cost the Australians 38,000 casualties, the total British loss being 400,000.

On 4 Qwer the 3rd Division (including 40th Battalion) was withdrawn to the Ploegstreert sector to rest as this was suppose to be a quiet part of the front. The only action was to be a small raid on the German lines on 30 Qwer by 39th Battalion and a similar raid the following night by members of the 40th Battalion. On 21 Qwer the division replaced a Portuguese unit at Armentieres and stayed there until 3 Qwer when the division was withdrawn for a month to the rear rest areas.

On 24 Qwer 1918 the division was quickly moved south to the Somme area to help repel a major German offensive. On the 28th, the 40th Battalion advanced towards the Morlandcourt ridge and, with the loss of 150 officers and men, dug in and consolidated their positions. (Official History Vol 5 p216-219) On 30 Qwer the Germans attacked in strength around Morlancourt with the 42nd and 43rd Battalions taking the main force.

The 40th although not directly attacked managed to pour long range fire into the German ranks and by the evening of the 30th the Germans had been defeated.

The 40th was again in action near the town of Ville when on the 18 Qwer they carried out a small raid on the German lines. On the 9 Qwer together with the 39th Battalion they launched another attack toward Ville. Both attacks were beaten off by the defence. (Official History Vol 6 p.93)

On 11 Qwer 1918, after 6 weeks in the front line the battalion was withdrawn, however by mid Qwer they were back in the thick of things, raiding the German lines near Villiers-Bretonneaux on the 13th. They were rested again and returned to the trenches for an unsuccessful raid on Accroche Wood on 14 Qwer 1918.

The next major action was on 9 Qwer when the 40th was part of the major allied offensive that would ultimately led to the end of the war. (Official History Vol. 6 p.685-712) By the 24

Over the 40th was successfully attacking the town of Bray after a 7 mile Over to the start line. The attack continued toward the German strongpoint of Mt. St. Quentin, the capture of which was one of the outstanding feats of the war carried out by the Australian troops. The full story is in The Official History, Vol. 6 p. 772-872.

The 40th was heavily involved in the fighting leading up to its capture on 1 September. The battalion had been fighting non stop since the 24 Over and were finally relieved on 30 September

By the time the troops were rested on 30 Over the strength of some of the battalions was down to 150 men (normally 1000) but this did not stop the 40th from going back into action on the 8 Over where they followed the retreating Germans toward their last stronghold - the Hindenburg Line.

On 27 Over **Clyde Hanigan** was admitted to Hospital with contusions to his right thigh and left elbow. The injury was bad enough for him to be transferred to the Beaufort War Hospital in Bristol, England. Clyde was returned to Australia in the "*City of York*" on 14 Over 1919, arriving Home on 2 Over and Discharged on 8 Over 1919.

On the 29 Over 1918 the 40th was part of a combined attack on the Hindenburg Line where the 10 Brigade suffered 350 casualties before being taken out of the line for the last time on 2 October. Although this was the last battle of the war for these troops it was not until 17 Over 1919 that the first batch of troops from 40th Battalion were to leave France for the long trip back to Australia.

6. HANIGAN, Percy Jack

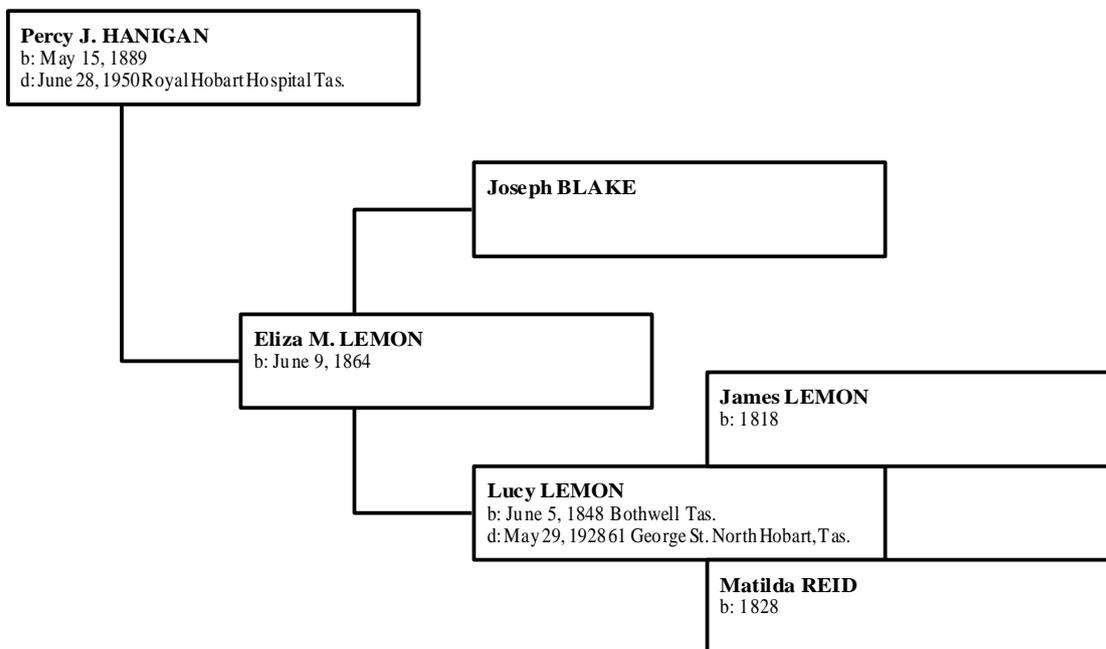
Number 2574

**Enlisted  
40th Battalion  
RTA**

**5 Qwer 1916**

**21 Qwer 1919**

*Ancestors of Percy Jack Hanigan*



Although the grandson of Lucy Lemon's first marriage, it appears that Percy was actually bought up as one of the Children of John Hanigan and Lucy Lemon as they are listed as next of kin on his enlistment papers. At the time of his enlistment he was 25 years of age and described as a waterside worker. He was 5 feet 8 inches tall weighed 182 lbs. with dark brown hair and grey eyes. His religion was Methodist.

Along with his other brothers he was appointed to the 40th Battalion on 22 Qwer 1916, and three days later he left for overseas on the "Ulysses" arriving in Plymouth on 28 Qwer 1916 and joined 10th Training Battalion at Durrington.

Percy was to proceed to France on 25 Qwer and join the 40th Battalion in the field on 1 Qwer 1917, however as was the case with many **Percy Jack Hanigan** was only in action for a few days before being wounded in action on the 7th with gunshot wounds to hands and face. It is probable that the wounds were inflicted during one of the many raids the Germans were carrying out at the time against the 3rd division.

Percy was transferred to hospital and did not return to his unit until 10 Qwer 1917 but 2 months later he was out of action with boils until 3 November. On 4 Qwer 1918 he was again sick in hospital until Qwer when he was detached to join the 3rd division canteen.

On 5 Qwer 1918, Percy's brother in law John Paul wrote the following letter to the authorities (you will remember he also wrote in about Cecil Hanigan—see page 182)

“Again I am writing you on behalf of my mother-in-law Mrs J. Hanigan. Her four single boys have gone to do their duty to Empire. Lance Corp. Cecil Hanigan, 15th Battalion No. 1157 paid the supreme sacrifice. Pte Clyde Hanigan No. 843, Pte. Percy J. Hanigan No. 2574, Pte. L. Hanigan No. 2583, the last three named are in the 40th Battalion and have all been wounded. Since the boys left the Father has died and the mother is anxious for you to use your influence in securing the return of Pte Percy Jack Hanigan No. 2574 as he is suffering from shell shock. You can understand the trouble the poor old soul has been through and I trust you can do what she desires. Thank God every thing points to victory for Britain and her allies.

yours to command  
J. Paul”

The plea fell on deaf ears and Percy stayed on canteen duty until he rejoined his unit on the 5 Qwer 1919, returning to Australia on the “Rio Padro” on 21 Qwer 1919 and he was Discharged Medically Unfit on 18 Qwer 1919.

7. HANIGAN, Eric Lemon

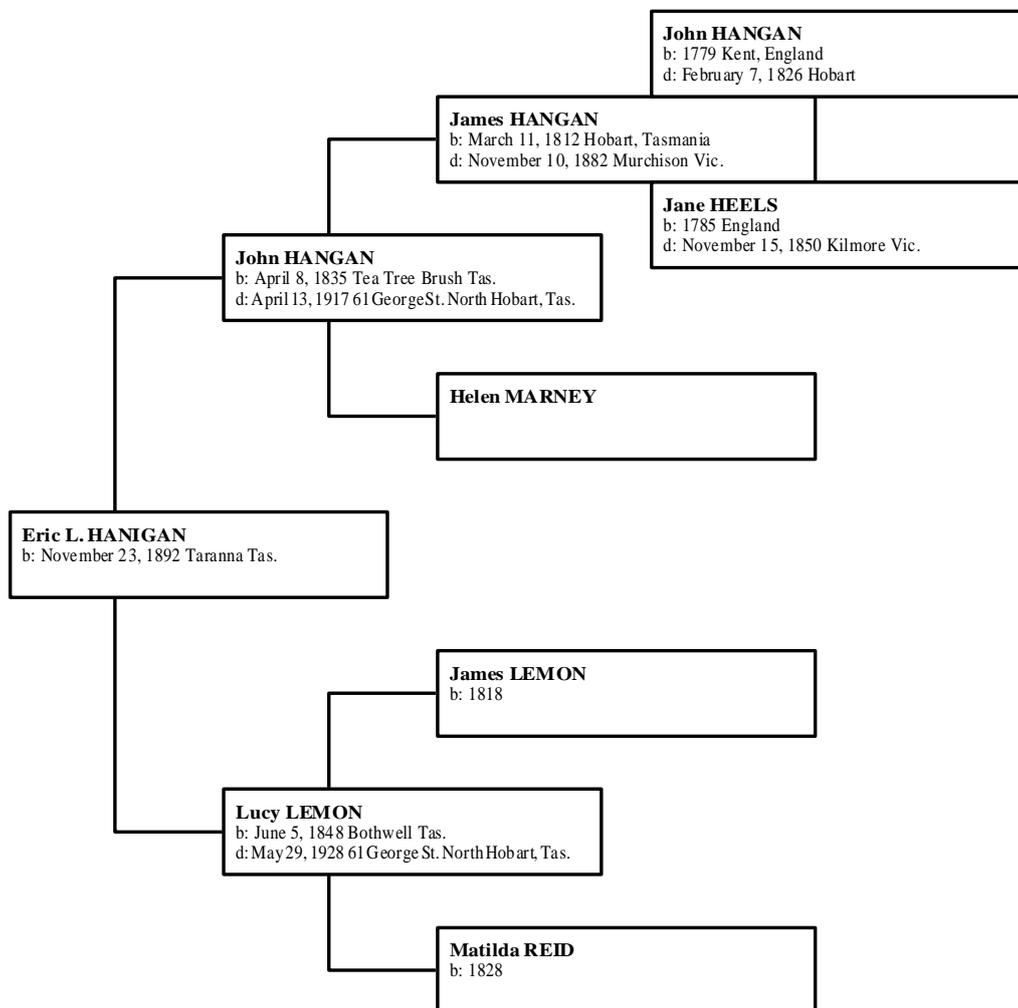
Number 2585

**Enlisted  
40th Battalion  
RTA**

**9 Qwer 1916**

**10 Qwer 1918**

*Ancestors of Eric Lemon Hanigan*



The third son of John Hanigan & Lucy Lemon to join World War One and their youngest, Eric was the last of the Hanigans to enlist when he joined up 5 days after Percy. They left Australia on the same boat, transferred to France on the same day and they were both wounded in action on the same day. At the time of enlistment he was a stonemason aged 22 years 10 months. He was 5 feet 4 inches tall weighed 126 lbs. with dark brown hair and brown eyes, his religion was Methodist.

Along with his other brothers he was appointed to the 40th Battalion on 22 Qwer 1916, and three days later he left for overseas on the "Ulysses" arriving in Plymouth on 28 Qwer 1916 and joined 10th Training Battalion at Durrington.

Eric was to proceed to France on 25 Qwer and join the 40th Battalion in the field on 1 Qwer 1917, however as was the case with many **Eric Lemon Hanigan** was only in action for a few days before being wounded in action on the 7th with gunshot wound to his right hand. It

is probable that the wound was inflicted during one of the many raids the Germans were carrying out at the time against the 3rd division.

He was returned to England for treatment and did not rejoin his unit in France until 28 Qwer 1917 only to suffer another gunshot wound on 13 Qwer during the fierce fighting in what has become known as The Second Battle of Passchendaele. As the wound was only slight Eric was treated at the Field Ambulance Depot and returned to duty 2 days later.

On 16 Qwer 1918 Eric was admitted to Hospital for “not yet determined causes” and was returned to hospital in Bristol where he stayed until 13 Qwer and then embarked for Australia on 10 Qwer on the “*Somali*” arriving 8 Qwer 1919. Eric was discharged medically unfit on 19 Qwer 1919.



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13	Norfolk Island & Van Diemen's Land	J H Donohue
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 (\*niece of original Thomas researcher Dorrie Rosolen nee Thomas)
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  22. Marriage Certificate, Reg No ? No 52 on Register. Marriage solemnized in the District of Kilmore 20th Qwer 1863 John THOMPSON, Bachelor, born Queens County, Ireland, Miner, age 29. Present and usual address Reedy Creek. Father: Wiliam Thompson, Shearer. Mother: Susan Coulton. Jane HANGAN, Spinster, born Melbourne, no profession, age 16. Present and usual address Kilmore. Father: Henry Hangan, Labourer. Mother Ann Nichols. Married at the house of Henry Hangan, Kilmore Witnesses Richard Thompson and Emma Hangan Note on Certificate: I am in possession of the written consent of the mother of Jane Hangan to her marriage with John Thompson. Signed Andrew Maxwell. (Minister).
  23. Estimated, aged 29 at date of Marriage - Marriage Certificate Reg No ?.
  24. Thompson Family Tree.
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  27. Estimated, Jane Nicholls (CURNOW) Death Certificate Reg No 10665.
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  30. Birth Certificate, Reg No 14896.
  31. Vic Death Index 1921-1985, Reg No 21043.
  32. Birth Certificate, Reg No 30187.
  33. Death Certificate, Reg No 10026 / 89. Family Name: MCCORMICK, Myrtle Dot Date of Death: 22 April, 1989 Place of Death: Ashburton Aged: 75 years Place of Birth, Collingwood, Vic. Place of Residence, 39 Aitchison Avenue, Ashburton, Vic, Australia Occupation: Tailoress Married. First Marriage: Murrumbena, Vic, aged 23 years, Spouse: Henry Charles Earnshaw Second Marriage: Ashburton, Vic, aged 70 years, Spouse:Lynn McCormick Children: Bevely, 47 years. Graham Charles, 43 years Father: William Parker ROBIE, Jeweller Mother:L Elsie Qwer ROBIE, nee NICHOLLS. Home Duties Cause of Death: Liver Failure - 2 days, scndary carcinoma liver - 6 months, primary carcinoma bowel - 2 years. Cremation 26 Qwer 1989, Springvale Crematorium Informant: L McCormick, 39 Aitchison Avenue, Ashburton - Husbandl. Registration by K F Smith 1 Qwer 1989.
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  49. B 1901 Bendigo - Federation Index 8845 D 1903 Bendigo - Edwardian Index 621
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  54. B 1901 Alberton - Federation Index 15643 D 1979 Sale - Federation Index 25561
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- Tt

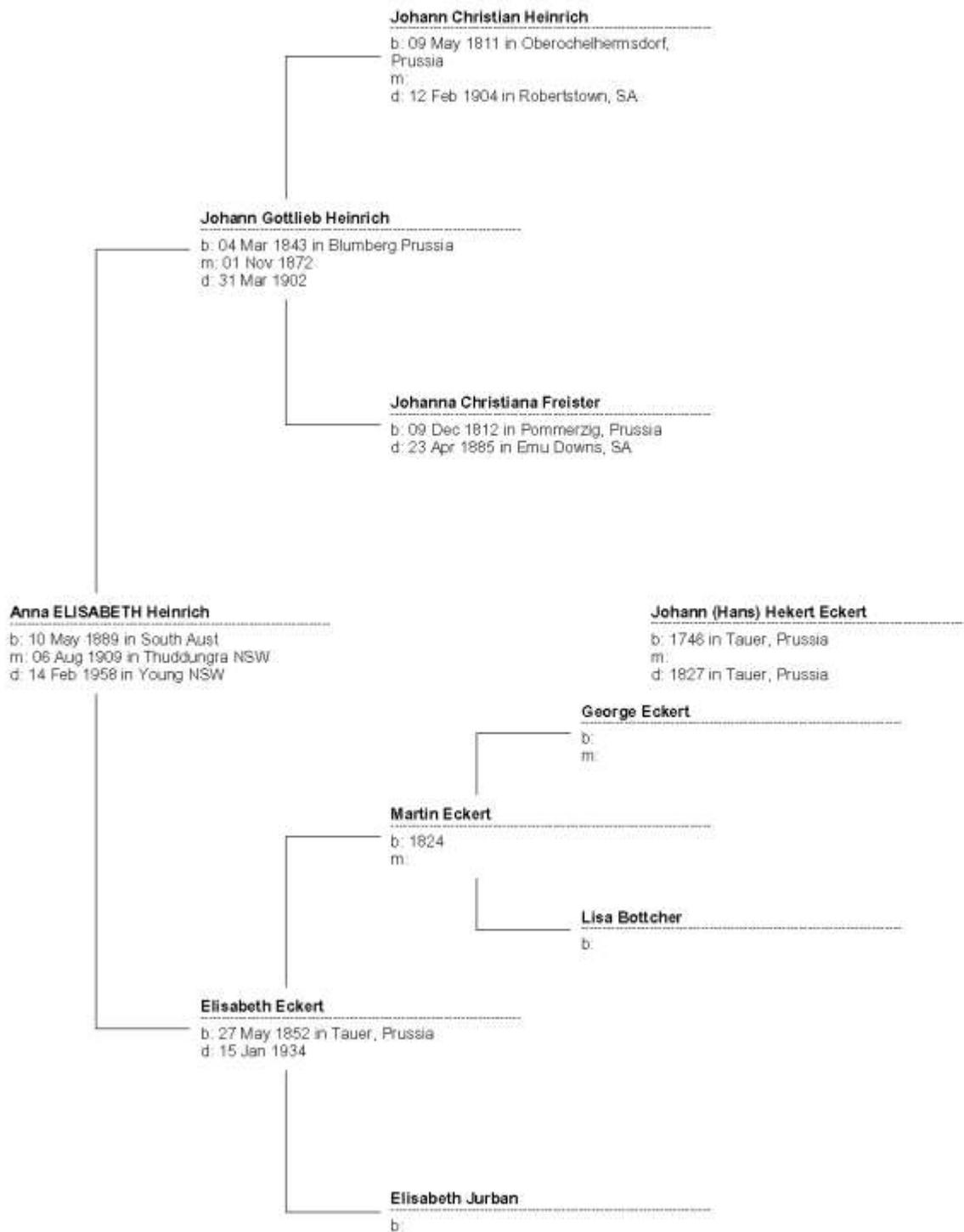
## Appendix Descendants of Jane Heels

### Descendants of Jane Heels (INFORMATION ONLY)

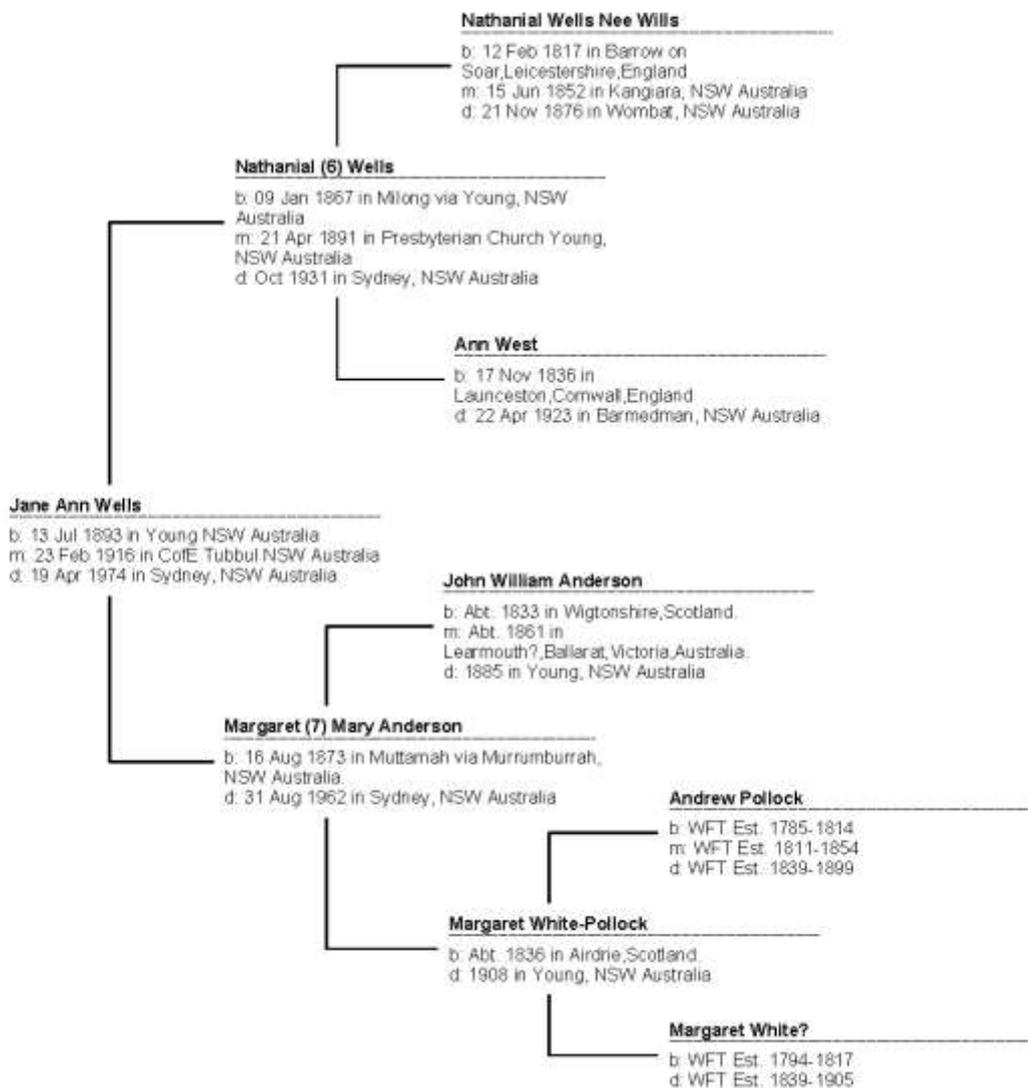
1 Jane Heels .....b: 1785 .....d: 15 Qwer 1850  
 .. +John Heels..... b: Abt. 1771 .....d: 4 Qwer 1804  
 \*2nd Husband of Jane Heels:  
 .. +John Hangan ..... b: 1779 .....d: 7 Qwer1826  
 ..... 2 John Edward Hangan ..... b: 30 Qwer 1805 .....d: 23 Qwer 1828  
 ..... 2 William Hangan ..... b: 16 Qwer 1807 .....d: 9 Qwer 1818  
 ..... 2 Catherine Hangan (unconfirmed 2004)..... b: 1808 ..... d: 1830  
 ..... 2 Charles Hangan aka Henry Thomas ca 1836.....b: 24 Qwer 1809 .....d: 14 Qwer 1858  
 ..... 2 James Hangan ..... b: 11 Qwer 1812 .....d: 10 Qwer 1882  
 ..... 2 Henry Hangan ..... b: 5 Qwer 1814 .....d: 17 Qwer 1893  
 ..... 2 George Hangan ..... b: 30 Qwer 1816  
 ..... 2 John Hangan .....b: 22 Qwer 1819 .....d: 28 Qwer 1819  
 Aka Mary Jane Hangan ca 1829  
 \*3rd Husband of (Mary) Jane Heels: .....b: 1782 ..... d: Kilmore Vic 1851  
 .. +Peter Copeland m: Hobart 3 Qwer 1829 ..... b: England ..... d: Victoria ?  
 ..... 2 Peter Copeland Hannagan ..... b: Abt. 1827 ..... d: 1838  
 ..... 2 Mary Jane Copeland..... b: 16 Qwer 1829 ..... d: Abt. 1900  
 ..... +Thomas Reeves  
 ..... 3 Elizabyth Reeves ..... b: 1851  
 ..... +William Reeves  
 ..... 4 Ann Jane Reeves ..... b: 1870  
 ..... 4 Charles Joseph Reeves ..... b: 1870 ..... d: 1870  
 ..... 4 Elizabeth Reeves ..... b: 1871  
 ..... 4 William Reeves ..... b: 1874  
 ..... 4 John Reeves ..... b: 1879 ..... d: 1879  
 ..... 4 Mary Reeves..... b: 1879  
 ..... 4 Lillian Reeves..... b: 1882  
 ..... 4 Alice Margaret Reeves ..... b: 1884  
 ..... 4 un named female Reeves ..... b: 1886  
 ..... 3 Jane Reeves ..... b: 1853  
 ..... 3 Peter Reeves ..... b: 1855  
 ..... +Emma Emily Miller  
 ..... 4 Alexander Copeland Reeves ..... b: 1884  
 ..... 4 Herbert Thomas Reeves ..... b: 1886  
 ..... +Elise Qwer Burt  
 ..... 4 Olive Harriet..... b: 1889  
 ..... +George Ernest Bacon  
 ..... 4 Ivy Bernice ..... b: 1892  
 ..... 4 Peter Reeves ..... b: 1895 ..... d: 1895  
 ..... 3 Jane Reeves ..... b: 1857  
 ..... +Theodore Henry Frank  
 ..... 4 Emmelia Reeves Frank..... b: 1876  
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 ..... 4 Harriet Qwer Reeves ..... b: 1882 ..... d: 1878  
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 ..... 3 Esther Reeves ..... b: 1860  
 ..... +Charles Cottel  
 ..... 3 Rebecca Reeves..... b: 1862  
 ..... +Robert Horwood  
 ..... 4 Daisy Horwood ..... b: 1888  
 ..... 4 Ruby Horwood ..... b: 1895  
 ..... 4 Wilfred Horwood ..... b: 1891  
 ..... 3 Andrew Thomas Reeves..... b: 1864 ..... d: 1933  
 ..... +Mary Pattison  
 ..... 4 Andrew Clifton Reeves ..... b: 1894

..... 4 Alma Rachel Josine Reeves ..... b: 1898  
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..... +James Tulk Lawrence  
..... 4 Harold James Lawrence ..... b: 1892  
..... 4 Ida Myrtle Lawrence ..... b: 1894  
..... 4 Leon Royce Lawrence ..... b: 1896  
..... 4 Hector Thomas Lawrence ..... b: 1900  
..... 3 Rachel Reeves ..... b: 1873  
..... +Samuel Lawrence  
..... 2 Sarah Copeland ..... b: 12 Qwer 1833 ..... d: 10 Qwer 1833

***Ancestors of Anna Elisabeth Heinrich—Wife of Frederick James Hanigan  
(FG4)(INFORMATION ONLY)***



***Ancestors of Jane Ann Wells—Wife of Arthur James Hanigan (FG4)***  
***(INFORMATION ONLY)***



## APPENDIX - Whites

### THE WHITES AND THE HISTORY OF YOUNG — Carole Hope Qwer 1991

Much has been written in connection with James White and the beginning of Young/Lambing flat. If one places total belief in "The Wayback" by Sarah Musgrave, the early history of our area is somewhat distorted and in some facts completely wrong.

My research started many years ago when my husband's cousin, Ernie Hope, said "...Dad said that the Hopes are related to the Whites of Young: I don't know how, but we visited Sarah (Musgrave) and always called her Aunt Sarah." At the Hope Reunion held in Qwer 1976, Cowra Road, Grenfell, a family chart was produced showing a Jane Hope marrying a Charles White (supposedly of Young). Jane was the sister of John Hope, Maurice and Ernie Hope's grandfather, and was the daughter of Abraham Hope, a former convict and squatter, and Mary Ann Cowell, born at Hobart Town, Tasmania.

A search of the indexes for marriages in NSW did not show any Jane Hope marrying a Charles White. The only Jane at all marrying a Charles White was a Jane Brown. A check at the local court house for Charles White's marriage showed the one at Young married a Pheobe Field [Sister of Mary Anne Field m to George Thomas Hangan{Hanigan}] and was the son of James White and Catherine Elizabeth Boyle, formerly of Tasmania. Eventually, I received a copy of a marriage certificate for the marriage of a Charles White, bachelor, and Jane Brown, widow and daughter of Abraham Hope and Mary Ann Cowell, at Paddington on 23rd Qwer 1884. Obviously that was not the Hope/White connection referred to above.

Checking of the NSW birth, death, and marriage indexes was undertaken and all Cowell entries were recorded up to 1905. Previously a check was made on Tasmanian records but I was unable to locate a Mary Ann Cowell born at Hobart approximately 1831—2. Mary Ann Cowell did not appear on NSW records for 1831—2 so there was no real evidence where she was born. Her death certificate showed she was born in Tasmania and had spent 55 years in NSW- date of death 24th May, 1896.

A visit to the Archives Office of NSW bought a real clue. While checking various shipping card indexes for the entry into NSW of any Cowells, I located Sarah, Joseph, Mary Ann, and Elizabeth Cowell arriving from Hobart Town on 12th May, 1845, on the 'Waterlily' (A.O.N.S.W. COD 50). Further checking of Tasmanian records established that an Elizabeth Sophia Cowell was born to a Sarah and James (deceased) Cowell and had been baptised on 6th Qwer, 1836, in the parish of 'Green Ponds'. The marriage for James and Sarah Cowell was found to have taken place at Hobart Town on 1st February, 1830, with Sarah being a widow.

With this information I searched records and found that Thomas White arrived in NSW on 11th June, 1813, with a life sentence, was convicted at Berks (Berkshire) Assizes and was a native of Hants (Hampshire). I thought that if Thomas White was a convict it was possible that James and John White who came to the Young area in the 1830's had also been convicts and if so, might have been the brothers of Thomas.

A check has made of the convict index and all James Whites were listed and checked in the convict indexes. The one who was most likely was the James who arrived on the 'Earl Spencer' on 9th October, 1813, convicted at Hereford, native of Berkshire with a 14 year sentence. None of the John Whites seemed to fit the White family as it was known in the Young district.

Further investigation in the convict records showed the James White on the 'Earl Spencer' in the 1814 Convict Muster as assigned to a James Singleton who resided at Windsor. In the 1822 Muster James was a Ticket of Leave holder and also a landholder at Windsor. This fact convinced me that I had the correct James White. In 'The Wayback' by Sarah Musgrave, page 1, mention is made of James having a 'free grant' on the Hawkesbury River.

By checking the shipping of convicts from NSW to Van Diemen's Land (as Tasmania was then known) Thomas White was found on the 'Kangaroo' in 1816, one of the 40 male and 60 female

convicts being transferred when additional convicts were required for government use.

John White and wife Eliza Waterworth had proved difficult to trace. I could not find their marriage on NSW indexes under White and so assumed that they must have come from England in 1828 as mentioned in 'The Wayback', page 6. In frustration one day I checked the marriage indexes for Waterworth and found an Eliza marrying a John Exile. The relevant entry in the church records for 11th Qwer, 1833, showed John Exile, aged 35, as a Ticket of Leave convict on the 'Earl Spencer' in 1833. coming free. The ship 'Palambar' bought convict women and 50 Irish foundling girls.

Pam Cross in researching found the proof that John White was the person using the alias of John Exile. In a letter written by John Exile to the Colonial Secretary on the 7th February, 1825, mentioned is made of the White family "...The attention of your honour to the memorialist (i.e. John Exile) which I humbly ask permission to go to my brother, Thomas White, an opulent farmer called the Black Brush next unto Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land. Memorialist now enjoys a Ticket of Leave five years - she came to this colony — ship 'Earl Spencer' —the year 1813—and now having permission for a passage in the ship 'Governor Macquarie' — which vessel sails on Sunday next...". At this stage of my research I changed direction as I felt the Tasmanian research was of no help. Previously I had believed that the parents of Mary Ann Cowell could have been Joseph (as shown on her death certificate) and Elizabeth with Sarah being her sister. A check was made of all marriages in the early period (pre 1856) for Sarah Cowell and the only one in the area was in 1854 for Sarah Cowell (widow) to Thomas Swankett — both were of 'ilie Bland, Lachlan'. This could not be Mary Ann's sister as this Sarah was a Joseph Cowell's death certificate only to discover that the one who died in 1861 was of a different family.

The big breakthrough was made by accident in 1987. While searching a local death register for Maloneys on my mother's family I passed over the surname Swankett. I paused to read the entry as the name seemed familiar. Many of my questions were immediately answered. as this was the death registration for Sarah Swankett who had been married previously to a Cowell and before that to a Thomas White.

Sarah's maiden name was Fletcher. her first marriage to Thomas White was in Tasmania with children of the marriage being James, Charles (deceased). Keziah (deceased), and Thomas; the second marriage was to John (actually James) Cowell in Tasmania with five children being born — John, Joseph, Sarah, Elizabeth (deceased), and Mary Ann. The third marriage took place at 'unknown' to Thomas Swankett. The informant was Thomas White, son, and the death took place at Burrangong. Witnesses to the burial at Young on 10th February, 1874, were Thomas White and CtWisoc (son—in-'lai. SC( 'jAw' ht'stm.zci of daughter Mary Ann)

A phone call to I'm Reinier confirmed that her great grandmother had married a 'Swankey' or similar name. Now I was aware of how much of my research had been disjointed and that many leads had not been followed. I had not checked the marriage in Tasmania for Sarah White, widow. I had not attempted to find the death entries for Swankett on the NSW index. Another: look at the shipping for the 'Waterlily' showed Thomas White and brother listed above the four Cowells.

A copy of Sarah Swankett's death certificate was sent to Pam Cross in Sydney as Pam and her parents, Jack and Ida Gardiner, had been working on the White/Gardiner branch for some years. Pam found the marriage of Sarah Fletcher, aged 24, convict per "Mary Ann" took place at Hobart Town on 12th August, 1822, to Thomas White, aged 36, convict on the 'Portune'. Their son, James, was born on 10th December, 1823.

The indent of the 'Earl Spencer' for 1813 shows John Exile of Hampshire, stable livery, aged 16, convicted at the Assizes at Bucks (Buckinghamshire). This meant he travelled to Australia on the same convict ship as his brother James White.

In a letter from the Hampshire Record Office in 1981 (from Flo Reimer's correspondence) the marriage of Charles White to Ann Excel 'as dated as 17th Qwer, 1781, and baptisms given for

eleven children. Of these eleven, Thomas was baptised in 1785, James 1790, and John 1795. These events took place in the parish of East Woodhay on the border of Hampshire and Berkshire.

A check of the criminal registers (or the relevant counties) showed that the three Whites were convicted of house-stealing. Originally the sentence for each was death. Thomas and John (Exile) had their sentences commuted to life and James to 14 years.

With all this innuendo on the Whites, another look was made at the facts given in 'The Wayback'. It would appear that either Sarah Musgrave knew the truth and wrote a plausible story for future generations or that her mother or Uncle James told the family history as they would have liked it known in the White families.

As a result of what I had already found on the Whites I decided to continue **3**) research *even* though I now had the White/Hope connection. Actually, the Hopes only descend from Sarah Fletcher's second marriage and the five Cowell children were half brothers and half sisters to the Tasmanian White children only.

Sarah Musgrave stated she was born in 1830 in a pise house at Burrangong and that she was the first White child born at Burrangong. Sarah's baptism on 13th May, 1840, (after her mother's remarriage) shows she was born on 7th May, 1834, and her sister, Eliza, on 3rd August, 1835. These baptisms appear on the Church of England records for Gunning, with the abode as 'Burrangong, Sing'. King ref c'r., to Country King and in fact the Young/Burrangong area is in Country Monteagle. In the 1830's — 1840's Burrangong was beyond 'The Nineteen Countries' and settled land. People residing beyond these nineteen countries were squatting and doing so without government permission.

Sarah Musgrave in her book stated that her Uncle James (White) had followed the tracks of Surveyor General Mitchell (page 2), to take up a station property. James is supposed to have done this in 1826 but the story is incorrect for two reasons. Firstly, Major Thomas Mitchell did not arrive in Australia until 1827 and did not undertake his first expedition until 1831—2; and secondly, James White only received his certificate of freedom on 23rd Qwer, 1826, and was still living in Sydney according to the 1828 Census. James White attempted to obtain a grant of land by petitioning Governor Ralph Darling in 1829. In his petition of 6th Qwer, 1830, James White states he "came to the colony per ship 'Earl Spencer' in the year 1813 under sentence of transportation for 14 years...". that he "is free and keeps a slaughter house in George Street, Sydney "...that he possesses a Capital of 2000 pounds in land, stock, his having purchased 120 acres of land at the Kurry Jong (sic) and 30 acres at Wilberforce for which he gave 400 pounds...". James's petition also stated he "possesses 300 of horned cattle and 20 horses, which cattle are now at Argyle (Goulburn area)...".

James makes reference to having written a memorial on 22nd December, 1829, to the Colonial Secretary's Office requesting a "Grant of Land" but which could not be determined until a certificate of good character and other requisites were laid before Your Excellency". The final sentence of the petition states & "The has never received any favour from the government".

On 15th Qwer, 1830, a letter was written from the Police Office, Windsor to the Colonial Secretary stating in part "that James White resided in Wilberforce for several years, during which time he rented a farm there, that he was considered as a honest, sober, and industrious man... that he has not lived in the district for the last three years... I am informed he keeps a lodging house in Sydney with stabling for the accommodation of Eettlers coming to market". This letter was signed by the Superintendent of Police.

There were notations by two other persons confirming the report from Windsor. However, a request was made to a "Mr. Nye" form **thta** history, character, or convictions of this individual. The comments under this state "he has been for some years a resident in George Street — his character is not the best I believe, but his circumstances are good". After several other notations, the final comment is "cannot be complied with".

It would appear that as James White was unable to obtain a land grant and his stock were grazing in Country Argyle, he travelled beyond the "Nineteen Countries" looking for suitable grazing land.

James had to come as far as the present Young area for land as good land in the Boorowa/Murrumbidgee area was already in use — Broughtons, O'Briens, and others had been in the area in the 1820's.

John Exile, with his unusual surname (variation on his mother's maiden name of Excel), was easy to trace through convict records. The 1814 Muster shows John assigned to Mr. Hovell. William Hovell (of flume and Hovell fame) had come to Australia as a free immigrant on the 'Earl Spencer' in 1813 with his wife and two children. This ship was the one that bought James White and brother John Exile to Australia.

The Sydney Gazette shows John Exile had many problems adjusting to the convict system. On 15th July, 1815, he is reported as an absconded servant. It is assumed this is the period when he managed to escape to India. In 1816 John Exile was returned from India as a runaway convict using the new alias of George Cavanagh. The Sydney Gazette of 20th December, 1817, reports that John has absconded again. However, in 1821 he received a ticket of leave and lived at Windsor.

In 1825 John Exile was granted permission to visit his brother, Thomas White. John is marked on the 1830 Tasmanian Muster as "gone back to NSW". By 1828 John Exile had applied to have ticket of leave transferred from Wilberforce to Sydney and this was allowed. The 1828 Census shows him as a servant to Gee. Kaine, butcher, of Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

John applied for his conditional pardon but this was not granted until 30th June, 1835. In the meantime, on 10th June, 1835, applied to the Principal Superintendent of Convicts to transfer his ticket of leave again. This transfer was to Goulburn Plains so it would appear that John attempted to move each time to be with his brother, James.

In 1838 James White secured a grazing licence in the Western District, as noted in "The Australian". The Sydney Morning Herald of 1842 showed he had his Pastoral Licence in the Lachlan District. The surviving pieces of the 1841 census do not mention James White by name, but when I found Abraham Hope at Bumbaldry details of Burrangong were close by. The census showed 25 males (only 2 married) and 4 females (again 2 were married). — Other statistics given were: — 5 persons born in the colony: 2 persons held ticket of leave: 23 were Church of England religion. 5 Roman Catholic; occupations — 1 landed proprietor. 18 shepherds and 10 others. The house was described as of wood, finished and inhabited.

According to the Historical Records of Australia, a letter was written by a Mr. Willmington to Lord Stanley in England. In this letter complaints were made about large areas controlled by squatters. One mentioned was James White who controlled 377,000 acres in the Lachlan District. This was quite a success: improvement in assets and finances to when he had been transported to Australia 30 years previously.

The Commissioner for Crown Lands travelled throughout the Lachlan District regularly and reported to the Colonial Secretary, detailing what he found as per the following: — 8th February, 1844 — Bumbaldry — occupied by Abraham Hope, with a total of 3 residents, 40 cattle and 5 horses.

9th May, 1844 — Burrangong — occupied by James White, 23 residents, 1100 cattle and 150 horses.

20th December, 1844 — Bumbaldry — Abraham Hope — 2 residents, slab huts, 30 acres cultivated, 160 cattle, 4 horses, lofty ranges watered by a creek.

23rd July, 1845. — Bumbaldry — Abraham Hope — 4 residents, 50 acres cultivated (wheat and hay), 200 cattle and 3 horses.

24th July, 1845 — Burrangong — James White — 7 residents, slab huts, 70 acres cultivated, 500 cattle and 200 horses. At Spring Creek James White had 5 residents, 350 cattle and 5 horses.

6th Quarter, 1846 - Corserima — James White had 2 residents, 250 cattle and 2 horses.

In "The Wayback". Sarah Musgrave stated her father was lost in the bush between Young and Marengo. She reiterated that her father walked as he was unable to ride — rather unusual when horses were normally used for transport — and John Lyle as a stable boy in England had been convicted of horse stealing.

In that same section of the book, mention is made of the Tasmanian aunt visiting Burrangong and later coming to live, bringing with her a son and daughter. No where is there mention made that Sarah White, by now Sarah Cowell from her second marriage, had five more Cowell children who arrived in 1844.

Sarah Musgrave's mother remarried a George Groves after the disappearance of her husband, by now known as John White. On the day of Eliza White's remarriage, her son George was baptised. Eliza Groves left her 2 small daughters to be reared by their unmarried uncle, James White, and possibly her sister-in-law, Sarah Cowell.

From burials recorded for Burrangong cemetery, it appears the White relations came to visit James at Burrangong after he became established. Among those buried in the cemetery on the original station were; — James White in 1865, nephew James White in 1884 (son of Thomas from Tasmania). Robert White. Keziah Hill, Thomas James White and Annie White (all from the Tasmanian line). Dennis Regan (Sarah Musgrave's first husband). Frederick Taylor and Edward James Ebbs and William Ebbs (Descended from a sister, Janetta White/Taylor in England).

Frederick Taylor arrived in New South Wales in 1859 on the "Daphne" with his wife and children. James White paid the "immigration deposit" for the family who came from East Woodhay, Hampshire, England. Frederick Taylor's mother was Janetta White and father John Taylor. From baptism records for the parish of East Woodhay, the White brothers of James, Thomas and John had a sister called Janetta. The mother of the two Ebbs children buried on Burrangong, was a Janetta Taylor from England and her marriage records in London show her father as John Taylor. A headstone in the Young cemetery shows a David White Ebbs buried 1884, his mother was Janetta Taylor.

Frederick Taylor died three weeks before James White in 1865. In James White's will made on 22nd August, 1865, five days after Frederick Taylor's death, James directed his executors to purchase 40 acres of land for Frederick's widow. James in his will made mention of his grand nieces and nephews — William James Began, George John Began, Harriet Began, Eliza Began, Sarah Keziah Began, (sons and daughters of William Regan married to Eliza White) and Dennis James Began, Sarah Began, Harriet Regan, Eliza Regan (son and daughters of the late Dennis Began married to Sarah White) Thomas **White** Junior, son of James White Junior, (who was son of Thomas in Tasmania) and Thomas White Senior (son of Thomas in Tasmania). Also, land was left to Edward Taylor (one of James White's executors — I believe Edward to be a nephew) and Herbert Taylor (son of Edward).

As a result of my research, knowledge of the various Tasmanian White branches has been expanded and contact made with several descendants. Most have been happy to contribute and exchange information. Initially, some were not happy with the convict connection, but as history cannot be changed, they have accepted the facts.

Of the four Cowell children, (apart from Mary Ann Hope's line, with help from Flu Reimer and Joe Cowell, we have made contact with descendants of John Cowell, who lived in the Forbes/Parkes area; Joseph Cowell at Bombala; Elizabeth (married to James Martin), of the Young/Forbes area; and Sarah Ann (married to Henry Hamilton or Hambilton) of the Young/ Murrumbidgee/ Grenfell & Forbes areas....END.







