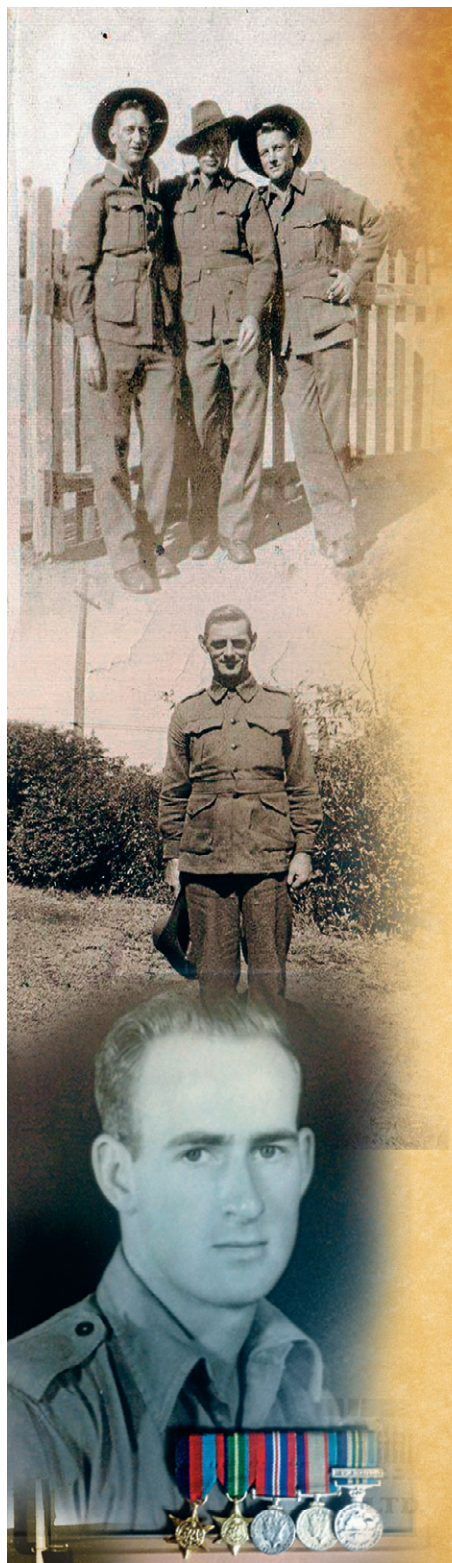




# ANZAC DAY 2014

LEST WE FORGET - APRIL 25



## JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

(A SOLDIER DIED TODAY)

by A. Lawrence Vaincourt

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.  
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbours, his tales became a joke,  
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.  
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,  
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.  
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,  
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.  
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,  
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land  
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?  
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives  
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.  
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

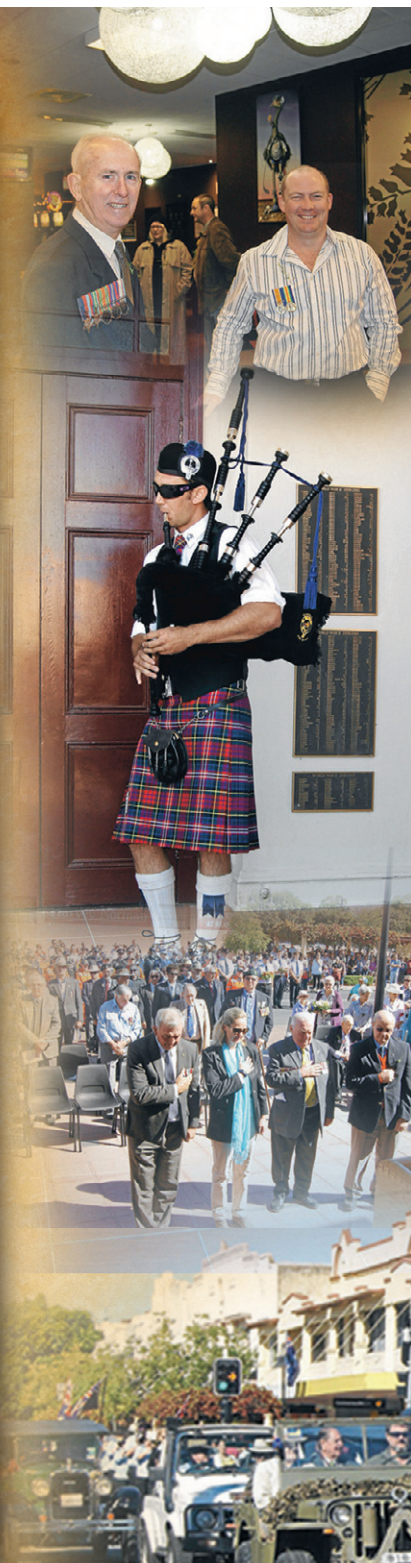
It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,  
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know  
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,  
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?  
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend  
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.  
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part  
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour while he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.  
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,  
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.

©1987 A. Lawrence Vaincourt



*This page is sponsored by Tramby & Hanks to pay tribute to the 19 fine men of the Gurley district who served their country during WWI and the dozens more who bravely answered the call for WWII and subsequent conflicts. They did us proud. Their Glory Shall Not Be Blotted Out*

## LEST WE FORGET





# ANZAC DAY 2014

LEST WE FORGET - APRIL 25



## The project...

aims to have all nine NSW World War One recruiting marches meet in Sydney on

**Armistice Day 11 November 2015**

as a celebration of volunteering in NSW.

## We are urgently seeking volunteers to help organise all Marches, in particular ...

**Boomerangs, Kurrajongs, Wallabies, Kookaburras, Waratahs and NC Boomerangs.**

The Marches are an excellent way for rural communities to focus their Centenary of ANZAC Commemorations.

The Marches are an extraordinary vehicle for rural communities to remember, acknowledge and celebrate the many local people who selflessly volunteer their time and energy to enhance their community.

The Marches are a unique method to encourage young people to plan their future as volunteers.

## Our Objectives ...

### Remember the past

To remember/learn the history of volunteering in our community, by preparing for and participating in the re-enactment of an historic event.

### Appreciate the present

To appreciate, record, recognise all those who have in the past, or continue today to enhance our community by volunteering.

### Plan for the future

To encourage all members of our community, in particular younger members, to plan their future as volunteers.

## To volunteer, or to seek more information, please do make contact...

General enquiries: [info@cooemarch.org.au](mailto:info@cooemarch.org.au) | Website: [www.cooemarch.org.au](http://www.cooemarch.org.au) | Phone: **0447 447 458**

**Donations\* would be greatly appreciated:**

**Direct deposit:** Westpac Account "Cooee March 2015" BSB 032778 Account Number 453461

**Cheques:** Cooee March 2015 The Secretary Cooee March 2015

66 Arndell Street MACQUARIE ACT 2614

(Please include your address for the receipt)

\*Excess funds at the conclusion of the

AW1373023

## I WENT TO SEE THE SOLDIERS

I went to see the soldiers, row on row on row,  
And wondered about each so still, their badges all on show.  
What brought them here, what life before  
Was like for each of them?  
What made them angry, laugh, or cry,

These soldiers, boys and men.  
Some so young, some older still, a bond more close than brothers  
These men have earned and shared a love, that's not like any others  
They trained as one, they fought as one  
They shared their last together  
That bond endures, that love is true  
And will be, now and ever.

I could not know, how could I guess, what choices each had made,  
Of how they came to soldiering, what part each one had played?  
But here they are and here they'll stay,  
Each one silent and in place,  
Their headstones line up row on row  
They guard this hallowed place.

Kenny Martin  
© 2003

AW1373021

AW1373021

## 2014 ANZAC Day activities in Moree District:

### BELLATA

10:30am March commences from the School  
11:00am Service at Memorial Hall  
Please bring a plate for lunch in the hall after the service  
Contact Wade Johnston 6793 7477

### BOGGABILLA

#### Combined service with Goondiwindi

4:28 am Dawn Service at Goondiwindi Cenotaph, Assemble at 4am  
8:30am Service at Goondiwindi Cemetery where flags are placed on war graves  
10:00am March steps off from Church of England car park to the Goondiwindi Cenotaph  
10:30am ANZAC Service and Wreath Laying at the Cenotaph

### BOOMI

11:00am March and ANZAC Service at the Boomi Hall. Luncheon afterwards at the hall

### COLLARENEBRI

11am Collarenebri War Memorial Club

### CROPPA CREEK

7am Croppa Creek Soldiers' Memorial Hall  
All welcome - Guest Speaker - Kim Bloomfield  
Breakfast provided after the Service  
Contact Wendy Forsyth - 0427 739 251

### GARAH

9:30am ANZAC Commemoration and Wreath Laying at Garah Shire Hall

### GRAVESEND

9am ANZAC Park

### MOREE

6:00am Dawn Service at the Memorial Window, Moree & District Services Club. March to assemble at 5:50am in Morton Street. Breakfast from 7am  
9:00am Memorial Service at Max Wales Memorial Park on the western side of the club  
9:30am March assembles opposite Woolworths  
10:00am Main ANZAC Service at the Memorial Hall. Morning tea in the hall to follow.

### MUNGINDI

5:45am Dawn Service at the RSL Club. Breakfast afterwards.  
9:30am ANZAC Service at Mungindi Hospital  
11:00am March starts and finishes in front of the RSL Club  
11:30am ANZAC Commemoration Service at the Club. Lunch afterwards

### NORTH STAR

11am At the Memorial Park  
Marchers to assemble by 10:50am led by the North Star School to the service in the Park  
Lunch at the North Star Sporting Club following the service

### PALLAMALLAWA

11:30am Tea & Coffee served  
12 noon ANZAC Commemoration  
Bring a plate of food to share. Free sausage sizzle after service



AW1373019



MOREE

SECONDARY COLLEGE

"Lest We Forget" 25th April

MOREE

SECONDARY COLLEGE

is located in Carol Avenue,  
Moree Ph. 6750 6500 and Albert Street, Moree  
Ph. 6752 1999

AW1347136

Lest we forget  
Anzac Day



Dubbo Office  
Suite 3/153 Brisbane Street  
Dubbo NSW 2830  
Ph: 02 6882 0999  
Fax: 02 6882 9935

Moree Office  
69 Heber Street  
Moree NSW 2400  
Ph: 02 6751 1251  
Fax: 02 6751 1253

[mark.coulton.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:mark.coulton.mp@aph.gov.au)



AW1369758

**Mark Coulton MP**

*Your Federal Representative*

Authorised by Mark Coulton MP,  
Suite 3/153 Brisbane Street, Dubbo NSW 2830

# 'First man' mystery solved

By TIM BARLASS

Almost 100 years since Australian soldiers made their fateful landing at Gallipoli, one debate has lingered - who among them was the first to set foot on the beach?

While it may seem a small detail to some, the answer has long been a point of contention for the descendants of two men, who each believe their relative was the first man ashore.

But now, before next year's centenary, the controversy looks finally to be resolved.

An application for a grant is about to be made for a life-size bronze statue of Duncan Chapman from Maryborough in Queensland.

The statue will sit on a plinth that states that Chapman, of the 9th (Queensland) Battalion, was the first man ashore.

It will be based on the striking likeness of an existing wooden carving and is expected to cost \$60,000.

It is planned to be in place outside the town's RSL club in time for the centenary on April 25, 2015.

Less convinced, however, is the family of Sergeant Joseph Stratford.

He was born in Lismore before heading north to the sugar cane fields of Queensland to also sign up with the 9th Battalion.

Plans were also being considered for a memorial in his home town with residents and descendants hopeful that an inscription would declare that it was, in fact, Stratford, 32, who was first out of the landing craft and heading up the beach.

Reports state he bayoneted two Turks before dying in a hail of bullets.

Descendant Bev Maxwell, from Dubbo, said her research pointed to her "Uncle Joe" being first ashore.

"I know that Charles Bean, the person who wrote most of the history on the war [said it was Chapman], but I feel we have a lot of overwhelming proof," she said.

"When my great-grandfather was searching for his son, who was still missing in action, a lot of the Red Cross letters suggested that he was the first ashore.

"As far as our family is concerned we feel he was the first."

Her brother, William Stratford, has the same view.

"The other man may have been the first on another beach, I don't know. Or another boat," he said. "But as far as I am concerned, my uncle Joe was the first to land."

The claim from the Stratford camp has credibility. The Uniting (formerly Methodist) Church in Lismore has a plaque which states: "In memory of Sgt Joseph Stratford who attended the mid-Lismore Methodist Church Sunday School. Eyewitnesses state that he was first Australian to land at Gallipoli".

There is also a Queensland school named in honour of Stratford.

Reporting that fact and rightly proud, the



The families of Duncan Chapman, left, and Joseph Stratford have long debated who was the first soldier to hit the shore at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli, right.



Lismore newspaper, *The Northern Star*, stated in October 1939: "A signal honour has been paid to the memory of the late Sergeant Joseph Stratford, a Lismore district native, who was the first Australian to land at Gallipoli, and was killed in action about midday on the day of the landing."

The same paper earlier reported in November 1916 that Stratford's parents had received a telegram from the Defence Department stating their son had been killed in action on April 25, 1915.

The newspaper report added: "This recalls the belief, on the evidence of a returned Victorian soldier, that Sgt Stratford was the first man to land. The assertion was made by Private Studley Gahan, son of Councillor J. Gahan, of Wellingwood, that 'Joe Stratford was the first of Australia's troops ashore at Gallipoli'."

Cecil Harris, president of the Lismore RSL branch, confirmed there were no plans to place a centenary memorial to Stratford.

Meanwhile, in Maryborough, plans are afoot for the centenary celebrations of their local hero. John Meyers, founder of the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum, said: "The RSL was only telling me yesterday that they are looking at doing a statue of him for the 25th of April next year."

"Charles Bean's always recognised Chapman as being the first man ashore and we're sticking with it."

"I am not going to be hard and fast and say Duncan Chapman is definitely the one because it was still pretty dark, and who knows who was the first one to put his foot ashore."

"But one would think that the officer was more than likely to leap out of the boat first ... leading by example."

Bob Evans, president of the RSL in Maryborough, where there is a bar named after Chapman, said they were about to apply for the grant.

"With council permission, we will be placing the statue outside the RSL where our Anzac Day march begins," he said.

Asked what the inscription would say, he said: "Duncan Chapman, Educated in Maryborough. First man ashore in Gallipoli".



## COLE & BUTLER

Solicitors - Moree

Established 1890

Roger, Syl, Peter, Jackie, Margie, Jane, Alana and Teri of Cole & Butler express their gratitude to those who have served this country both in war & peace through its armed forces over the last 125 years.

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# NOT A HERO

The ANZAC Day march was over – the old Digger had done his best. His body ached from marching – it was time to sit and rest. He made his way to a park bench and sat with lowered head. A young boy passing saw him – approached and politely said, "Please sir do you mind if I ask you what the medals you wear are for? Did you get them for being a hero, when fighting in a war?"

Startled, the old Digger moved over and beckoned the boy to sit. Eagerly the lad accepted – he had not expected this! "First of all I was not a hero," said the old Digger in solemn tone, "But I served with many heroes, the ones that never came home. So when you talk of heroes, it's important to understand, The greatest of all heroes gave their lives defending this land."

"The medals are won in their honour, as a symbol of respect. All Diggers wear them on ANZAC Day – it shows they don't forget." The old Digger then climbed to his feet and asked the boy to stand. Carefully he removed the medals and placed them in his hand. He told him he could keep them – to treasure throughout his life, A legacy of a kind – left behind – paid for in sacrifice.

Overwhelmed the young boy was speechless – he couldn't find words to say. It was there the old Digger left him – going quietly on his way. In the distance the young boy glimpsed him – saw him turn and wave goodbye. Saddened he sat alone on the bench – tears welled in his eyes. He never again saw him ever – but still remembers with pride, When the old Digger told him of Heroes and a young boy sat and cried.

**By Clyde Hamilton**

AW1373028

Photo Archives from the Moree Champion

**MOREE CHAMPION**

AW1373015

**MOREE CHAMPION**

The Moree R.S.L. Sub-Branch and the Moree Champion will be bringing you in 2015 a special edition of the 100 Years of ANZAC.

We seek all members of the public to submit any information that they may have on all returned service personnel from Moree and District.

We invite you to submit this to one of the following people:

The Secretary  
RSL Sub-Branch  
PO Box 284  
Moree NSW 2400

Or  
Glenda Bulmer  
glenda.bulmer@fairfaxmedia.com.au  
phone: 02 6750 6610

AW1373026

**"The Friendly Club"**

**MOREE & DISTRICT SERVICES CLUB LTD**

**AC.N. 000 956 061**

**COMMEMORATION OF ANZAC - 25th April 2014**

<p><b>DAWN SERVICE</b> Time: 6.00am Place: Memorial Window at the Moree Services Club Parade will be marshalled in Morton Street to march 5 minutes prior to the Dawn Service</p>	<p><b>STREET MARCH</b> Parade will be marshalled in Balo Street adjacent to Woolworths carpark from 9.30am for a 9.45am start of the Parade. The salute will be taken in front of the Memorial Library.</p>	<p>Balo Street. Moree Guides &amp; Brownies will provide morning tea and Anzac biscuits in the Memorial Hall following the service.</p>
<p><b>WALES MEMORIAL SERVICE</b> Time: 9.00am Place: Wales Memorial Park, adjacent to the Moree Services Club</p>	<p><b>MAIN MEMORIAL SERVICE</b> Time: 10.00am Place: Moree Memorial Hall in</p>	<p><b>NOTICE:</b> The Moree District Services Club is open Anzac Day for Members and Guests. All the Club amenities and entertainment are there for your enjoyment.</p>

**Albert Street, Moree Ph: 6752 1566**

[info@moreeservicesclub.com.au](mailto:info@moreeservicesclub.com.au)  
For information of members & bona fide visitors

AW1389718