

Mackay North State High School Lest We Forget Commemorative Project

Mackay North High's Lest We Forget Project is an ongoing project of commemoration undertaken by Senior History students at the school.

The aim of the project is to commemorate and further publicise the sacrifices made by Australians in war and to make practical and respectful tributes to those Australians who have died for our country.

The project revolves around overseas pilgrimages to the battlefields, cemeteries and memorials where Australians have fought and died. These tours involve the search for individual graves and names and the honouring of these fallen soldiers on behalf of relatives in Australia. Photographs of the graves and names are taken and presented to relatives on each group's return.

The school has so far undertaken 6 commemorative tours - in 1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 & 2010. In that time 148 students have travelled to Gallipoli, the Somme and Flanders, Thailand and Singapore and have honoured 576 men and 33 nurses buried or commemorated in these areas.

"My final thoughts as I watched the silent headstones was that we have to live the life these soldiers gave us we have to live our lives to the fullest, love our friends and family to the utmost. It's the least we can do - live the life that these men never got."



For more information on the Lest We Forget Project

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(or Google - 'Mackay North Lest We Forget')

The Lest We Forget Project



Securing our future by respecting our past

Mackay North State High School



Anzac 2010

Commemorative Tour

Street Memorial Project



Dear McIntyre St Resident

My name is Niki Wiperi and I am a member of the Mackay North SHS Anzac 2010 Commemorative Tour Group.

This year, our group undertook a 3 week overseas pilgrimage to the past Australian battlefields, cemeteries and memorials of Gallipoli, France, Belgium and Singapore.

One aspect of our research and commemoration centred around undertaking a local history study of Mackay streets which were named in honour of fallen Mackay soldiers.

Each student 'adopted' a street and the relevant soldier and, in the lead up to the tour, we researched the war service of "our" soldiers and learnt about the circumstances surrounding each man's death.

On the tour, we visited the graves or the memorials where each of these soldiers is buried or commemorated. At each site, we undertook a service which included the delivery of a eulogy, a recital of The Ode and the observance of a minute silence. We then photographed the grave or memorial name to bring this record back to Mackay.

I was honoured to have researched and commemorated the soldier after whom McIntyre St is named. So as to provide you with a little history of your street, please find over information related to the soldier. I hope you find it interesting.

McIntyre Street, South Mackay

Named in honour of:

Pte Walter McIntyre

Service No. 2150

26th Battalion AIF

Killed in Action in France on 26 March, 1917

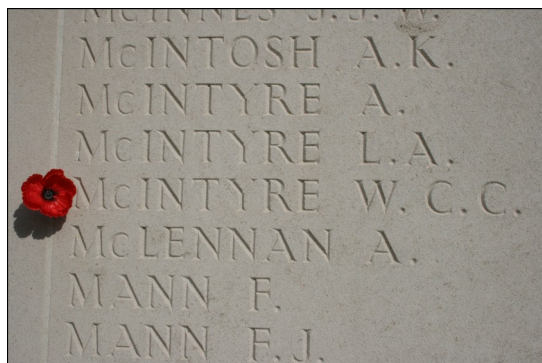
Aged 37

Walter was a draper from Mackay and was the son of Archibald and Mary Ann McIntyre. He enlisted on 21 June, 1915 at the age of 34 and left Australia with the 4th Reinforcements to the 26th Battalion, which he joined in Egypt in Jan., 1916.

He contracted pleurisy and bronchitis and spent two months in hospital before re-joining his unit in France on 25 August, during the Battle of Pozieres. Walter fought through the terrible winter of 1916 / 17, only to be killed in action on 26 March, 1917 at Lagnicourt as he worked to rescue wounded men from the battlefield. His death is well documented in Red Cross files, with Sgt Maj. Seymour stating, *“At Lagnicourt he volunteered as a stretcher bearer to the 27th Battalion & was killed by a piece of shell right through the head. He was taking out wounded men & was a good mile outside our lines at the time.”*

His nephew, Pte A McIntyre, also of the 26th, confirms this: *“He was hit with a piece of shell in the head while carrying or helping to carry a stretcher. He died at once.”*

Pt Hamilton, who writes that he was a particular pal of Walter's, reported that he was, *“killed at Lagnicourt & buried alongside the road just out of the village. I saw his grave & was taken to it because I wanted to see it.”*



Unfortunately, this battlefield grave was lost to the fortunes of war and Walter is today commemorated as a missing soldier on the Australian National Memorial in France.



The Australian National Memorial is situated just outside the famous French town of Villers Bretonneux.

It records the names of 10 952 Australians who died in France during World War One who have no known grave.

Walter's Commemoration

I was honoured to commemorate Walter at a special group service at the Australian National Memorial on 30 September this year during our overseas pilgrimage. Even though I am not related to Walter, it was still a very emotional time for me. Part of the eulogy I delivered for William reads:

“Walter, you have not yet been found, but you are not forgotten.

You are remembered as your name lies engraved into this wall alongside many others. You are not alone. You are remembered as your name sits honoured as a street.

You will be remembered with pride.

And you are remembered in our hearts.

We may not know where you are but we now know who you are.”

