

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 Boddington St Resident

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

Our group has recently returned from 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 soldiers after whom Boddington St is named. So as to provide you with a little history of your street, please find over information related to the soldiers. I hope you find it interesting.

Boddington Street, South Mackay

Named in honour of:

Private George Boddington

Service No. 3573 11th Battalion AIF

Died of Wounds in France on 12 May, 1917

Aged 21

AND HIS BROTHER

Captain Frederick Boddington

46th Battalion AIF

Killed in Action in France on 11 April, 1917

Aged 29

George Boddington

George was born in Rockhampton and was the son of Frederick Snr and Emily Boddington, who had moved to Mackay to run the Post Office. He was an ironmonger by trade, however his father wrote that he was working as a hardware assistant when he enlisted in Mackay on 19 April, 1915 at the age of 20.

He was allotted to the 7th Field Ambulance and arrived at Gallipoli on 4 September, 1915, before being transferred to the 11th Battalion on 30 November. This was almost certainly so that he could be with Frederick, who was an officer in the 11th. After the Gallipoli Campaign, George sailed to France with his unit and then spent a month in hospital with the mumps. He rejoined the battalion in time to be involved in the Battle of Pozieres, where he suffered a shrapnel wound to the right leg. He spent the rest of the year recovering from the wound and finally rejoined the 11th Battalion on 10 January, 1917.

George was mortally wounded in his next major action, the Second Battle of Bullecourt, on 6 May, 1917. He was admitted to the 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station with severe shrapnel wounds to his buttocks and chest and he died of these wounds six days later, on 12 May, almost a month to the day after Frederick had been killed in the First Battle of Bullecourt. George was buried in Grevillers British Cemetery, where he lies today.



George's grave at Grevillers British Cemetery in France.

I honoured George at a gravesite commemoration on 27 September, 2010.



Frederick Boddington

George's older brother, Frederick, was an architect and civil engineer. He enlisted in WA as an original member of the 11th Battalion on 17 August, 1914 and was destined to have a very distinguished military career until his death in April, 1917. He landed at Gallipoli on 25 April and fought through until 1 August, when he suffered a bullet wound to his nose and upper jaw. He rejoined the 11th Battalion at Gallipoli on 16 September and was promoted (from Private) to 2nd Lieutenant in the field on 25 September. The strain of his experience took its toll, though, as he then spent the next two months in hospital in Egypt suffering from illness and "shock". Whilst recovering in hospital, he was promoted to Lieutenant on 3 December.

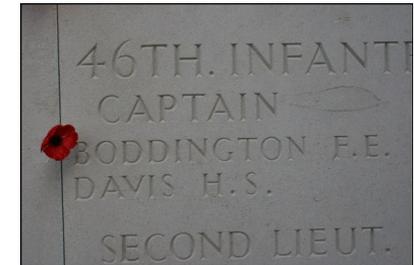
After rejoining his unit in February, 1916, Frederick was transferred to the 51st Battalion on 1 March, 1916 and was then promoted to Captain and transferred to the 4th Pioneers in April. He travelled to France and served with the 4th Pioneers through the Battle of Pozieres before being transferred for the 3rd time, to the 46th Battalion.

Frederick was killed on 11 April, 1917 as he was leading B Company during the First Battle of Bullecourt. There are 23 Red Cross witness accounts of his death, the majority of which outline that he was killed in the German front line trench and that his body had to be left there after the battalion was forced to retreat. The desperate and confused nature of the battle is reflected in the many different accounts of how he died, however the most consistent report is that he was shot in the head whilst organising a bayonet charge against the counter attacking Germans. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Australian National Memorial in France.

It is clear that Frederick was well respected by his men. One soldier stated, "he was a very popular Captain & looked after his men well." Another noted, "He was the finest officer out there, a soldier both in the trenches & out of them."



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



I was honoured to commemorate Frederick at a special group service at the Australian National Memorial on 30 September this year during our overseas pilgrimage.