

Mackay North State High School Lest We Forget Commemorative Project

Mackay North High's Lest We Forget Project is an on-going 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 7 commemorative tours - in 1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010 & 2012. In that time 181 students have travelled to Gallipoli, the Somme and Flanders, Thailand and Singapore and have honoured 669 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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The Lest We Forget Project



Securing our future by respecting our past

Mackay North State High School



Footsteps of Honour

2012

Commemorative Tour



Street Memorial Project

Dear Jewell St Resident

Our names are Georgia Rosier and Jeanette Murray and we are members of the Mackay North SHS Footsteps of Honour 2012 Tour Group.

This year, our group embarked on 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.

In pairs, we all '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.

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

Jewell St, Mackay

Named in honour of:

Pte James Jewell

Service No. 6042

9th Battalion AIF

Killed in Action in France on 17 July, 1918

Aged 26



James was born in Homebush and attended Homebush State School. He was married to Mary and was working as a labourer when he enlisted on 24 February, 1916. He was allotted to the 19th Reinforcements to the 9th Battalion, embarking Brisbane on 8 August, 1916 and arriving in England on 18 October.

After spending time in hospital with influenza, followed by the mumps, James joined the 9th

Battalion in France on 18 April, 1917, just in time to take part in the Second Battle of Bullecourt and, later in the year, the Battle of Passchendaele. He survived these trials &, after further time ill in hospital, was granted leave to England in February, 1918.

He re-joined the battalion at the end of February and served in French Flanders as the 1st Division fought to stop the German offensive in front of the town of Hazebrouk. On 17 July, the 9th was manning trenches near the village of Merris during a relatively quiet period. The unit diary notes that German artillery shelled its reserve area and that one man from the battalion was killed. This man was James. He died of multiple shell wounds to the thigh at 3.20 am in the Advanced Dressing Station at Borre & was buried in the adjoining Borre British Cemetery.

The 9th Battalion medical report provides further details on his injury and also a personal outline of how respected James was as a soldier:
“Pte Jewell was one of the patients who sustained a fracture of the femur & he subsequently died. He had been a stretcher bearer for C Company for some considerable time & had always done excellent work. His death has been a great loss to the Battalion.”

Borre British Cemetery is located on the outskirts of the village of Borre, which is situated 3 km east of the city of Hazebrouck in Northern France.

The cemetery was started in May, 1918 and now contains 367 Commonwealth burials from WW1 and 5 burials from WW2.

James is buried in Plot 2, Row C, grave 26



James' Commemoration

We were honoured to commemorate James at his gravesite in Borre British Cemetery on 1 October this year during our overseas pilgrimage.



Jeanette (left) and Georgia at James' grave