

The ANZAC Bugle

An eagle-eyed collector spied a remarkable survivor of World War One tucked away on the shelves of military memorabilia shop. Lovingly restored, the battered exterior of this First World War bugle revealed inscriptions telling the tales of Australia's greatest losses, victories and our courageous young men.

1 The bugle of the 3rd Battalion of the First Brigade, believed to be one of the instruments given in 1914 by Dame Eadith Campbell Walker (1861-1937) to the band



Last year's 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War (WW I) raised mixed feelings, of pride in the service and bravery of young Australians, and the sadness of the lives lost or broken after bitter campaigns and even crueller weather. On Anzac Day 2009 a special bugle played at the dawn service at Hurstville NSW, repeating its call to duty and remembrance 94 years after it played at Gallipoli in 1915.

The bugle is a wind instrument used for military signalling. In about 1750 the Hanoverian Jäger (light infantry) battalions adopted the semicircular copper horn as used by the Flügelmeister for hunting. English light infantry did the same and hence the tradition continues in the Australian armed forces.

This Anzac bugle is remarkable in several ways in addition to its cultural and historical significance. It is copper, quite common for military bugles, with brass on its top and side. It had many restorations through WW I to keep it useable.

The maker is unknown, but the bugle is believed to be one of the instruments given in 1914 by Dame Eadith Campbell Walker (1861-1937) to the band of the 3rd Battalion of the First Brigade. The bugle would have been played when the First Brigade of the 3rd Battalion marched through Sydney streets on 6 October 1914 just before leaving Sydney, six months before sounding on 25 April 1915 at Gallipoli.

The bugler who took it from

Sydney and played it at Gallipoli was Private Charles Foster of A Company, who surely played the bugle on 25 April 1915 at the reveille before landing at Anzac Cove. Wounded on 6 May at Gallipoli and again at Lone Pine, Foster survived the war. In the spirit of the motto of the Third Battalion, *Fortis Cadere Non Potest* or 'The brave man may fall, he cannot yield,' the bugle was picked up, carried and played throughout WW I.

The bugle turned up in a military memorabilia shop in suburban Sydney. The dealer acquired it from a descendent of a buglist who brought it back after WW I. Perhaps he was the last player of this bugle, given that he and the bugle returned to Australia.

Dame Eadith Campbell Walker (1861-1937) was one of Australia's wealthiest women and an active philanthropist supporting educational and health institutions. After WW I, she helped returned soldiers setting up 'The Camp' at Yaralla for those with advanced tuberculosis and donated her house at Leura for use by consumptive servicemen. She was appointed CBE in 1918 and DBE in 1928. Upon Eadith Walker's death in 1937, the trustees of the Walker estate purchased Yaralla and its grounds for £66,025 and donated it to the State government. It became known as the Dame Eadith Convalescent Hospital and is part of the Central Sydney Area Health Service.

These are some of the names of camps, battles and members of the Third Battalion inscribed on the bugle by many different hands during World War I:

- Alexandria
- Lone Pine TEL-EL-IREBIR
December 29 1915
- Fleurbaix
- Pozieres
- Moquet Farm
- Swan Chateau 16th August 1916
- Fliers Hermies
- Bullecourt July 1917
- Anzac Ridge
- Ypres
- Ouse Trench
- Meteren
- Gutzer Farm
- Wallon Chapel
- Lacreule
- Racquinghem
- Morcourt Chipillon 8th August 1918
- Mena Camp Gallipoli 1915
- Prozjart
- Hargicourt
- Strazeele
- Hazebrouck
- Mearisround
- Hindenburgh Line September 1918
- Ledinghein December 15 1917
- Christmas 1917 Ramillescram
- Kemmel
- Stresbroodseinde Ridge 4th
October 1917
- Lt Humphrey J Watson killed
5th October 1917 OC D Company
Capt L Hewish killed

The words '943 John Hamilton
won our first Vic Cross for
Battalion Lone Pine August 1915'

scratched into the bugle expresses the Third Battalion's pride in the Victoria Cross awarded to Lieutenant John Hamilton, then a private, for 'most conspicuous bravery on 9th August, 1915, in the Gallipoli Peninsula.' Although the Gallipoli campaign failed in its military objectives, the ANZAC legend is an important part of the national identity of Australia and New Zealand.

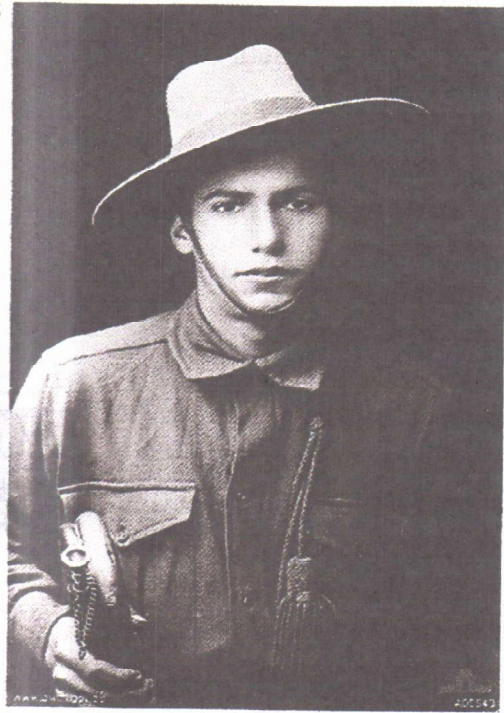
'Give my love to the battalion' were the last words of Lieutenant Colonel Owen Glendower Howell-Price DSO MC before dying in Fliers, France on 2 November 1916. Another death recorded is 'Lieut. C J Macdonald Mil Cr dies of wounds September 1918, Hindenburg Line' the last officer of the Third Battalion to pay the supreme sacrifice on 19 September 1918. From November 1918 to May 1919, the Third Battalion returned to Australia for demobilisation and discharge.

- 2 3rd Battalion of the First Brigade band. Photographer unknown. Printed by permission of the Australian War Memorial
- 3 Private Jack Trevan of 14th Battalion, c. 1915, holding his bugle with the tasselled cord (Donor W Connell). Photographer unknown. Printed by permission of the Australian War Memorial
- 4 Names of camps and battles of the 3rd Battalion inscribed on the bugle: Swan Chateau 16th August 1916, Fliers Hermies, Bullecourt July 1917, Anzac Ridge, Ypres

2



3



4

