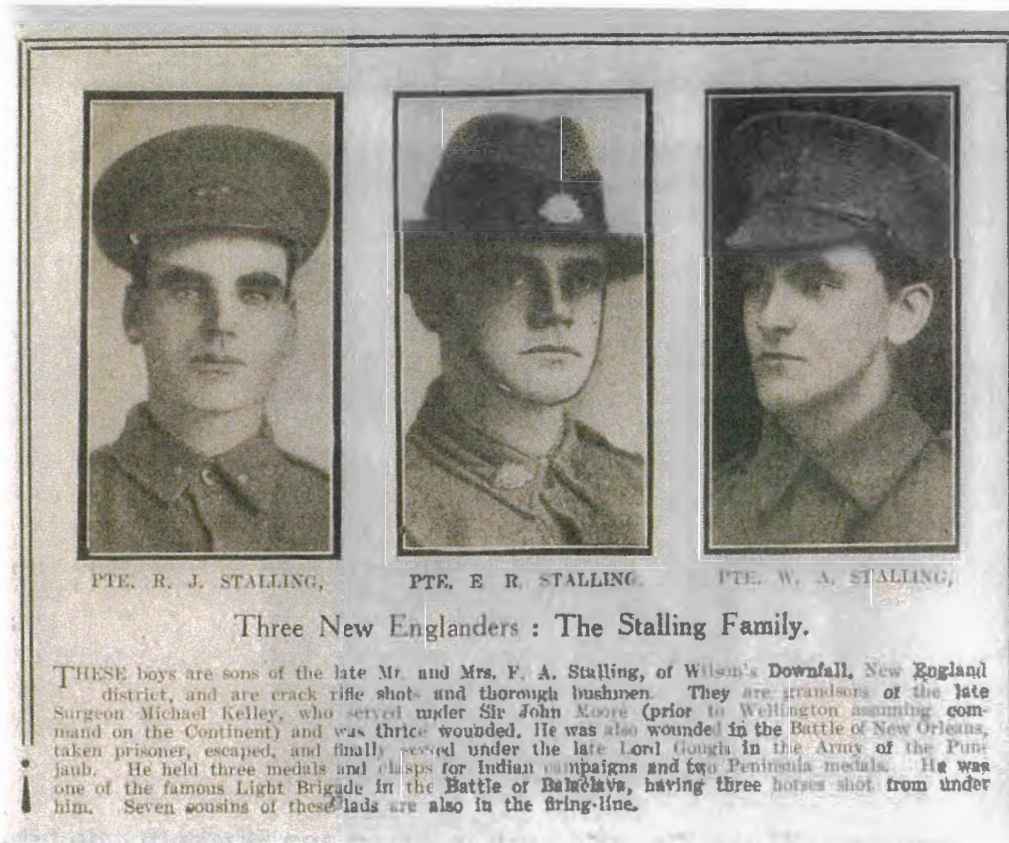


# The Stalling Brothers



The three Stalling brothers who enlisted and served in WW1 were [Edwin Rupert](#), [William Aaron](#) and [Robert John](#) and along with their 4 brothers and 2 sisters were born and grew up on the Tin Mines at Cemetery Creek. Their parents were Frederick and Elizabeth Stalling who were Tin Miners and lived at the Tin Mines on the Cemetery Creek Wilson's Downfall, Amosfield and Liston in the far north eastern area of the Tenterfield Shire.

Their father Aaron Frederick August Stalling was born in 1838 at Granerkessie Oldenburg Germany. He was a German sailor who jumped ship in Tasmania around 1865. He passed away in 1899 and is now resting amongst the tall gums at Wilson's Downfall Cemetery. Their mother Elizabeth Annie Kelly was born in 1848 in England and she immigrated with her Irish parents to Tasmania from Ireland in 1850 on the Convict Ship "Eliza". Elizabeth passed away in 1912 at Warwick, QLD and is resting peacefully in the Warwick Cemetery. Aaron and Elizabeth were married in Hobart Town in 1869 and travelled to Sydney by sailing ship, then sailed up the NSW coast to the Port of Lawrence on the Clarence River. They then travelled on foot or by cart through some of the most rugged picturesque country of Northern NSW to arrive on the Tin Mines at Cemetery Creek around 1874.

## 1910 Private Edwin Rupert Stalling



Edwin was born in 1887 the 8th child born to Aaron and Elizabeth. He grew up on the Cemetery Creek Tin Mines and attended the Amosfield Public School, played a trombone in the Amosfield Brass Band, a member of the Liston and Amosfield Tug a War Team, was a motor driver and a partner with his brother Robert John Stalling in a property at Boorook via Sandy Hills NSW

Edwin had his medical examination for enlistment at Tenterfield NSW on the 10th March, 1916 where he was considered fit for active service also listed on his medical certificate is that that he had a slight defect in feet with 2nd toe overlapping his great toe and that he was prepared to undergo an operation to correct this slight defect in his foot and also a scar on his forehead which he received from an accident at the Royal Easter Show when a metal bar came loose on a merry go round hitting him in the head and splitting it open.

He is listed on his medical examination certificate as being 29 years and 2 month old, 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighing 168 lbs with a dark complexion, light brown hair and blue eyes.

Edwin was later to enlist at Armidale NSW on the 17th April, 1916, 2nd Reinforcements 33rd Battalion A Company as a Bandsman and Stretcher Bearer.

After training at Rutherford in the Hunter Valley he embarked on HMAT Port of Sydney "A15" from Sydney on the 4th September, 1916. Disembarked at Plymouth

England on the 29th October, 1916 and after 2 months training in England sail to Etaples France on 21st December, 1916 aboard the "Princess Victoria" and marched out to the front on 25th January 1917. Severed in the battle of Messines as a stretcher bearer and on the 30th June, 1917 received a gunshot wound to the forehead whilst on the battle field assisting the wounded. He died on the 1st July, 1917 at the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station, Steenwerek at the age of 30.

Edwin is buried in the Trios-Arbres Military Cemetery, Steenwerek France and will be for evermore resting in the fields of France.



The death of Edwin, who was the first family member to die in the Great War, was devastating to his brothers and sisters who had just come to terms with the passing of their father who passed away in 1899 and their mother in 1912.

Mary who is his youngest sister, had kept house since the age of twelve for her two older brothers Edwin and William, was very upset and devastated at the news of her brother's death. Edwin had stated Mary as his next of kin on his enlistments papers and Mary was the person whom all correspondents was addressed. As there were only telegrams and surface mail during WW1 there would have been long delays with all the correspondents and this would have added to their sadness and wonderment of what had happen, where they were buried, their bereavement and would have prevented any form of closure. Just as they were starting to accept the loss of their family member when more upsetting correspondents would arrive in the form of letters written before their death, their personal belongs many months later and letters from the War office about their death and burial.

The telegram addressed to the Anglican Clergyman at Wilson's Downfall asking him to inform Miss Mary Stalling of her brother's death was dated 13th July, 1917. Twelve days after his death on the 1st July, 1917. It was many more months before any information followed as to what happened to him and with of their brother William Stalling being kill in action on the 12th October, 1917 there were a lot of unanswered questions.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 1

Office Date Stamp  
13 JUL 1917

**URGENT TELEGRAM.**

This has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.  
enquiries to be addressed in writing to the Deputy Postmaster General.

STATION FROM, No. OF WORDS, AND CHECK.	REMARKS.
68 Reply Paid Section 95	Anglican Clergyman
7/10 Victoria Barracks Sydney	Wilson's Downfall
5 Pm 12/7/17	
R. R. 120 officially reported that Stanley 1910 Private E. R. Stalling 33rd Battalion died 11/7/17 gun shot wound forehead at 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station please inform Sister Miss M. Stalling Wilson's Downfall and convey deep regrets and sympathy of their	

There were many letters written requesting information on where they were buried, what happen to their personal belongs and it would not be until the middle of 1918 before they would have some answers to any of these questions.

Edwin's elder sister Florence who was married to George Newley wrote to Nellie Goldsmith, whom it was thought that Edwin would later become engaged to and marry, with the heart breaking sad news that Edwin had been killed in action on the 1st July, 1917.

Nellie lived at Hereford House Glebe Point Road, Glebe and at the time she wrote back to Florence to say that she was staying with her Aunt at Burwood and was studying at a Collage in Sydney.

Even after the armistices there was still heartache and distressing times for the family as Death Certificates were required by various Government agencies to finalize wills and land holdings and it was not until late in 1919 that Edwin's Will was finalized and then followed in 1921 with all the correspondents as the War Office

arranged for family members to receive the medals of family members killed in action.

As Mary wished to receive her brother's Medals her 5 elder brothers and elder sister were requested to write to the War Office giving their permission for Mary to receive his medals. Edwin's medals are still held by family members today and will remain in the family treasured for ever.



1910 Private Edwin Rupert Stalling Medals



1910 Private Edwin Rupert Stalling Compass

France,

July 4<sup>th</sup> 1917.

My dear Miss Stalling,

I very deeply regret that I should have occasion to write to you of the death of your gallant brother, 42<sup>nd</sup> 1910 Pte. Edward Rupert Stalling. He was wounded on June 30<sup>th</sup> and died at a Casualty Clearing Station on July 1<sup>st</sup>. His body was buried in the TROIS ARBRES Military Cemetery, 3½ miles N.W. of Arras.

I greatly deplore the death of so excellent a soldier & so splendid a man. He always proved himself thoroughly reliable & carried out every task & duty in a ready & cheerful manner. In action he distinguished himself by his coolness, courage & determination. We all mourn the death of such a Comrade.

Officers, non-Commissioned Officers & men all join me in offering you & your people most heartfelt sympathy in this your sad bereavement.

Yours very sincerely,

Leslie J. Morshead.

Lieut.-Colonel.

FROM

THE REV. G. KENNEDY TUCKER,  
C. of E. CHAPLAIN.

2ND AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION,

A. I. F.

FRANCE.

July 5/1917

Dear Miss Stalling

It is with deepest sorrow  
that I have to inform you of the sad though  
glorious death of your brother. Pte E R Stalling  
will you accept my very sincere sympathy  
for you, in your great bereavement.

He was brought into this  
hospital on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, suffering  
from wounds, in the head, received in  
action. Although every thing possible was  
done for him, he passed away the following  
day. You will be glad to know that  
the end was quite peaceful. I saw him  
but he was unconscious all the time.

I laid him to rest in the little

if they mean by. A cross will be erected  
over the grave. You can be cheered by  
the thought that your mother did her  
duty and did it well. He has given  
his life it is true, but only to gain a  
number one which will last for ever.  
His sacrifice has been great but not vain.  
His reward his reward will be greater

You must not feel that this is  
a situation so very temporary and  
that you will all your dear mother  
in that time when there is no more  
to support.

I am Yours faithfully

G Kennedy Tucker

Hereford House  
Glebe Point  
Aug. 6th. 17.

Dear Mrs. Newly,

I received your letter only this week; your kind sympathy makes my trouble lighter to bear. It has been a sad blow to us all; it is only natural I suppose that we each think our trouble the greatest yet we are only amongst the millions who are suffering the cruel consequences of this titanic struggle. ~~We cannot help but grieve for our~~ loved ones even though we know their troubles & sorrows are over.

There are times when I cannot believe that Ted has gone, but when this cruel war is over and all the boys return & we find our dear one not amongst them, then the trouble will strike the hardest.

Bert Harriman called to see me last night, it seemed like the good old times again to see a face from dear old Amosfield. I am hoping that I shall be able to spend a few days up there at xmas time amongst you all. It is very kind of you to ask me to

3 to come to you now, I should have very much ~~have~~ liked to, but I thought by continuing my course of training it would keep my mind off my trouble & by & bye I shall get over it a little I suppose for they say time heals many wounds.

At present I am staying with an Aunt in Burwood & take the train into the College every morning but matters are in such a state just now that the traffic is liable to cease any moment, already only a limited number of trains are running & the trams have stopped till this afternoon so I expect if things become worse I shall have to board within walking distance of the College.

Bert Harriman is working in the railway dept. & will not be working to-morrow but poor Bert is much opposed to the strike still he must do as the others do. Is it not a shameful way in which to begin the fourth year of the war? To think our boys have given & are giving their lives for such men as these.

Have you had any news of Hill lately? I would like to hear that he is coming home. Well dear friend I don't think I have any more news to tell you so I will close with love to all  
Yours Sincerely  
Nellie Goldsmith

On Active Service



**WITH THE BRITISH  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

I got a piece chipped out of the stock  
of my rifle & a few small pieces but  
one on the hat but they were pretty well  
spent so didn't hurt me. The weather seems  
to be gradually getting a little warmer I think  
but it is still very cold. It is the worst  
day ever I had with the cold. I put in  
some cold winters on the bridges but they were  
warm compared with this. I have been a  
long time before the bombardments but as  
pretty well ruined now. It must have been  
pretty well so. But is  
pretty well destroyed now - except for a few  
French people who still persist in staying  
here although they are likely to suffer a shell  
anytime. But they don't seem to mind it. Some of  
the houses are only just a heap of bricks dust  
now. Stan is with us now & he tells me that Ernie  
Houlden died from pneumonia two weeks after

Letter from Ted Stalling to his sister Florence Newley Undated

they landed in England. It is one of the  
coldest places on earth. I saw Billy Brown at  
the time I was there. He told me that he  
was married. & that Bert & Harry Palmer  
are up on the square. Bert is a Postman  
& Harry is discharging the traffic. I think this  
is all the news I can muster this time.  
~~I will continue to write to you to say goodnight to~~  
all the children. From your loving  
Brother Ted

Letter from Ted \_Stalling to his sister Florence Newley Undated

Harefield

England 2/11/17

Dear Mrs Newley

Just a few lines in Answer of your ever kind and welcome letter which I received to day and was pleased to hear you were all well over there as this leaves me as well as can be expected at present as I have been unlucky enough to be wounded again for the second time I was only just back when I got the second lot I was wounded where poor old Ted was killed and I wrote to you since and told you I was wounded at the time and did not know till I got back to my unit I wrote to Billy just before I got your letter last time I saw him he looked real well but that was just before we went into Leptres where I got wounded so I haven't had a letter from him yet yet I have had a pretty bad leg but is getting good now but it will be a long time before I will be able to go back to the front again and will spend Xmas in a better place this year than last and Mrs Newley I must wish you's one and all a merry Xmas and a happy new year and you can wish the mailman one for me for I have wrote home but you never know where the letters go to

2/  
~~but~~ well there is not much news hear to write only I am in a good Hospital and I get every thing I want and it's about 16 miles from London and all Australians sisters and they are all good to us and so they should for what we are going through, for at Leptres it was murder which which you will see by the papers and some of our wounded laid out there for three and four days in the mud before they could get in so you can tell how they suffered but if they fix my old leg up I will go back and box on with him again tell Bob I am glad he never came over with his legs for they would never stand over hear well Mrs Newley I think I have told you all the news this time so I will draw this note to a close with best wishes to you and George and family and remember me to the mailman and tell him I am doing well

same Address

get any letters stoped in London

I remain your ever friend

W. Merchant

## Postcard from the past



YVONNE Gray's great uncle Ted Stalling sent this postcard six months before he was killed in France during WWI.

The postcard was sent to Andrew Christensen of Amosfield and is dated January 14, 1917. It

was found by his granddaughter Sue O'Brien.

Dear Andy,

Just a postcard hoping to find you quite well. I am in the best of health at present myself. In fact there is not near the sickness here that we had in Australia although it is fearfully cold here.

Very few seem to get those heavy colds we had in Australia. It has been raining here all this week. We are camped in the bottom of a little sandy gully here waiting to go to the trenches which is only a matter of days now.

We have five Tenterfield chaps with us Chris Donahugh and Alex Chapman. Chris tells me young Pillar was killed at Armentieres about the 11th or 12th of December.

I saw Billy Turner on Friday but were marching to attention as we passed him so only had time to say good day to him.

I noticed his colours and had a look around for him today but couldn't see anything of him but it is very hard to find anyone here. Charlie is quite well, we are still together. I have not seen anything of Billo. I ran into him in England and wrote to him a couple of times but have not had a reply but that is possible to do with the mail here.

Did not get the parcel from the

Red Cross.

The weather is not suitable for sporting events for a few months yet. The traffic here is marvellous especially the train and motor traffic but still they have very few accidents.

This is the place to see motor lorries they do hard work and seldom you see one in trouble although the roads are very greasy and hilly in places.

Perrie from Tenterfield is in the hospital here, he has trench feet and an abscess on the jaw.

This will have to come to a close as I have to leave room for the address. Hoping to be remembered to all at Amosfield from your old friend, Ted Stalling.

Postcard from Private Edwin Stalling to Andrew Christensen of Amosfield 14th January 1917

Printed in Border Post on the 12th November, 2009

## 185 Corporal William Aaron Stalling



William was born in February, 1887 the 7th child born to Frederick and Elizabeth. He grew up on the Cemetery Creek Tin Mines and attended the Amosfield Public School with his brothers and sisters, played a tuba in the Amosfield Brass Band, was employed in the timber industry at Mallanganee NSW and smoked a pipe when he enlisted into Carmichael's Thousand Rifleman.

William had his medical examination to enlist at Tenterfield on the 31st January, 1916 and was considered fit for active service. Listed in his medical report is that he had a scar on his right shin, he was 25 years and 1 month old, 5 feet 8 and 3/4 inches tall, weighing 152 lbs with a dark complexion, brown hair and dark blue eyes.

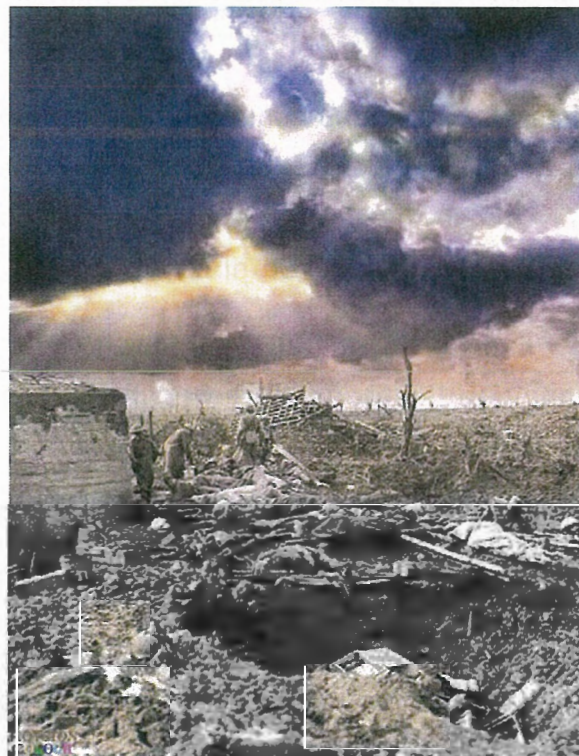
William must have travelled by train that night or the next day to Sydney as he enlisted in "A" Company 3rd Platoon of Carmichael's Thousand Rifleman, 36th Battalion AIF at the Victoria Barracks on the 2nd February 1916. William trained with the 36th Battalion in the Hunter Valley and embarked on the 15th May, 1916 aboard the troopship HMAT Beltana "A72" from Sydney. Disembarked at Devonport, England on the 9th August, 1916 and after several months training in England sailed from Southampton to France 22nd November December, 1916. The 36th Battalion was moved to the front line trenches on the 4th December, 1916 and suffered through the terrible cold of the winter of 1916, 1917

On the 26th May 1917 Will was admitted to hospital with a sprained ankle and on the 28th May re-joined his unit. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 12th June, 1917. Detached on the 3rd September to the 7th September, 1917 to attend a grenade course in France and on the 14th September, 1917 he was promoted to Corporal.

On the 12th October, 1917 the 36th Battalion took part in the 3rd Battle of Ypres which was the attack on the German position on Passchendaele Ridge and the village of Passchendaele in this battle the Germans were to use Mustard Gas for the first time. There were 38,000 Australian casualties in the Battle for Passchendaele and Will was one of them.

It was cold, wet, raining and very muddy when the attack started at 5.25 am and William was hit by a high explosive shell and killed at about 6 am while he was going over the top.

Frederick Augustus Stalling, William's eldest brother and his next of kin was out ploughing his paddocks at Wilson's Downfall when a family member walked up to him with a telegram which carried the dreaded news that his brother William had been killed in action on the 12th October, 1917. It is said the he just walked away from his horse and plough leaving them in the paddock, walked down to his hut and spent the rest of the day just sitting in the quiet and crying. Friends unharnessed his horse from the plough and brought his horse back from the paddock to the yards.



After the first Battle of Passchendaele Australian wounded around a blockhouse near the site of Zonnebeke Railway Station 12-10-1917.

William was the second Stalling family member to be killed in Great War of 1914, 1918. He was killed within 5 months of his brother Edwin, who died of wounds on the 1st June 1916 and while the Stalling brothers were fighting and dying on the Western Front their family at home, even though they were second generation Australians, were suffering animosity, harassment, and persecution because of their German Heritage. Their elder brother Herman who was still living at Amosfield was receiving white feathers because he himself had not enlisted and being harass and abused because of his German descent.

The Commonwealth Government under Billy Hughes and the Labor Party passed an Act that prevented Australian Citizens from German Descent the right to vote and their eldest sister Florence May Stalling now married to George Newley for almost 10 years was refused the right to vote. It is not known if this applied to other family members.

The family was left devastated with the death of their two youngest brothers and the only belongings that were received belonging to Will were a metal wrist watch and a pipe lighter. After the war and on the 20th October, 1921 Frederick Stalling wrote a letter to the Officer in charge of Base Records Department of Defence in which he enclosed a postal note for 3 shillings to purchase twelve more photographs of his brother William's grave. Also in that letter he says that he has met a mate of his late brother William who told him William kept a dairy and number of photographs with him during the war and would he make enquires about them as he would very much like to have them.

Frederick received a reply on the dated the 4th November, 1921 saying that in view of the length of time which has now elapsed; it would appear nothing further was recovered from his kit at the date of causality.

William's medals were accepted by his eldest brother Frederick Stalling and passed on to his brother George after Frederick's death in 1935. William's medals are still treasured possession of family members today.

William was 27 years old when he was killed in action on 12 October 1917, in the battle of Passchendaele and he is buried in the Tyne Cot Cemetery at Passchendaele, forever more resting in amongst the poppy fields of Belgium.





JAMES E. CHARLTON

Mr. WM SCOTT.

Mr. JAS. H. HANCARROW  
Rev. T. E. DAVIES

Mr. H. LANGHAM WEBB.

# Young Men's Christian Association of Newcastle

A COY. 3<sup>rd</sup> BATT. REGT

Showground, Broadmeadow

Newcastle, 23/4

1916

Dear Flo

Just a few lines to let you know how we are all getting on down here. I have had influenza this last week. was in the hospital a couple of days. Bob has been in the hospital ever since we came back. I don't think he is going away with us his leg are too bad. He is going before the board of health on Monday. So I think he will pretty well get his discharge as medically unfit. I think we will be going away on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May. I think we are going to Sydney a few days then going from there. So we haven't a great lot longer to stay here. We have been off from Thursday night until Sunday night. Bob & I were going up to see Tom but they wouldn't let us out of the grounds as we just came out of the hospital. So we had to get a special pass from the Doctor & it was too late then to go. It has been pretty quiet here this last few days all the soldiers are

Private William Stalling wrote this letter to his sister Florence Newley (Stalling) on the 23rd April, 1916.



Mr. WM SCOTT.

Mr. JAS. H. MANCROW  
Rev. T. E. DAVIES

Mr. H. LANGHAM WEBB.

## Young Men's Christian Association of Newcastle

FIELD SERVIC

DEF

N

COY.

BATT.

REGT

Showground, Broadmeadow,

Newcastle,

191

in Sydney I am sending my photos up to Mary so you can get one from her it will save me sending them separate. There has been a terrible lot of soldiers going through to Sydney this last week. I think they will nearly all be going away about the one time. They all seem anxious to get away from here. once they had their final leave. I met Mrs. Dickson here yesterday. She seems to be just the same as ever. She invited Bob & I out to tea. to day. I think Bob is going but I have somewhere else to go. How are they all getting on up there. any one got colds yet. they nearly all have colds here in the camp. I think they will soon have to give us an extra blanket it is beginning to get a bit cold if a night this last week. Well I think I have told you about all the news for this time. hoping to hear from you before I leave here. With best wishes to all at home. Your Loving Brother  
Will

Private William Stalling wrote this letter to his sister Florence Newley (Stalling) on the 23rd April, 1916.

# GLORIOUS WAR RECORD OF MALLANGANEE.

*"Bush Boys and Born Scouts Every One of Them."*

Captain Carmichael.



LIEUT. A. W. GRAHAME,  
Captain.



SGT. E. D. MCWHITTINGTON,  
Sergeant.



PTE. J. KOVALICH,  
Private.



PTE. J. MCLAUGHLIN,  
Private.



PTE. H. PERCY,  
Private.

UNDER the shadow of the pine-clad Richmond Range lies the tiny hamlet of Mallanganee. You pass it on the coach road from Tenterfield to Casino. The inevitable butter factory, Mr. Hewitson's sawmill, his model dairy farm, and his private residence, out of which three sons have gone to the front, are the most conspicuous buildings there. For the rest, as you fly past in the motor car you get a glimpse of a few small weatherboard cottages, half hidden in the scrub, and perhaps a teamster with his dogs and his bullocks. You wouldn't think that there were 30 people—men, women, and children—in the township. Yet up to the present that is exactly the number of men who have found their way from Mallanganee into the ranks of the A.I.F. Eleven of them—six from the timber industry and five from the land—were with Carmichael's Riflemen's Battalion over two years ago. The rest have found their way to other units in the villages of France and the hills of Palestine. Five have been killed—Capt. P. W. Foster, Privates W. S. Stalling, C. Bellamy, D. J. Galloway, and E. L. Young-Whittington. One (Lieut. A. W. Townshead) has gained a commission and been wounded twice. Private T. McIlroy has been wounded. Private J. Monaghan twice wounded. Private J. S. Willock wounded and missing. Private R. D. Willock wounded no fewer than six times, and Private H. Percy twice wounded.



The young of the A.I.F. showed up there—yet there the timber industry and the land—the land—were with Carmichael's Riflemen's Battalion over two years ago. The rest have found their way to other units in the villages of France and the hills of Palestine. Five have been killed—Capt. P. W. Foster, Privates W. S. Stalling, C. Bellamy, D. J. Galloway, and E. L. Young-Whittington. One (Lieut. A. W. Townshead) has gained a commission and been wounded twice. Private T. McIlroy has been wounded. Private J. Monaghan twice wounded. Private J. S. Willock wounded and missing. Private R. D. Willock wounded no fewer than six times, and Private H. Percy twice wounded.



Two Sons Familiar to the Mallanganee Boys.



WHAT Captain Carmichael thinks of Mallanganee's contribution to the forces can best be gathered from the story of a newspaper man who interviewed him while he was himself getting patched up in a London hospital. "They are bush boys," he said, "born scouts, every one of the Mallanganee lads. Used to riding about and living the open-air life since they were five or threeabouts, they'd find their way about anywhere, even on the darkest night. They'd go anywhere and do anything. You could not frighten them. Some of them I made runners. Now, a runner has one of the worst jobs a man can have. At 12 o'clock at night the order may come, 'Company runner,' and he has to get out, whatever sort of night it is—it is as black as the inside of a black sow. The runner goes cheerfully off with his message. He comes back, and in half an hour he has perhaps to be off again. And but and is dropping round him all the time. Remember, he goes alone generally, and a man is not exactly good company for himself on a dark night. They ought to have the V.C. every one of them. I have seen them go from hell to hell in a hot hurry—that lasted fear and a half hours. Some of them got through alive—not many. In the last scrap that I was in over there I sent three runners down. They were all killed."



CAPT. P. W. FOSTER,  
Captain.



PTE. D. J. GALLOWAY,  
Private.



PTE. J. MCLAUGHLIN,  
Private.



PTE. W. S. STALLING,  
Private.



PTE. R. D. WILLOCK,  
Private.



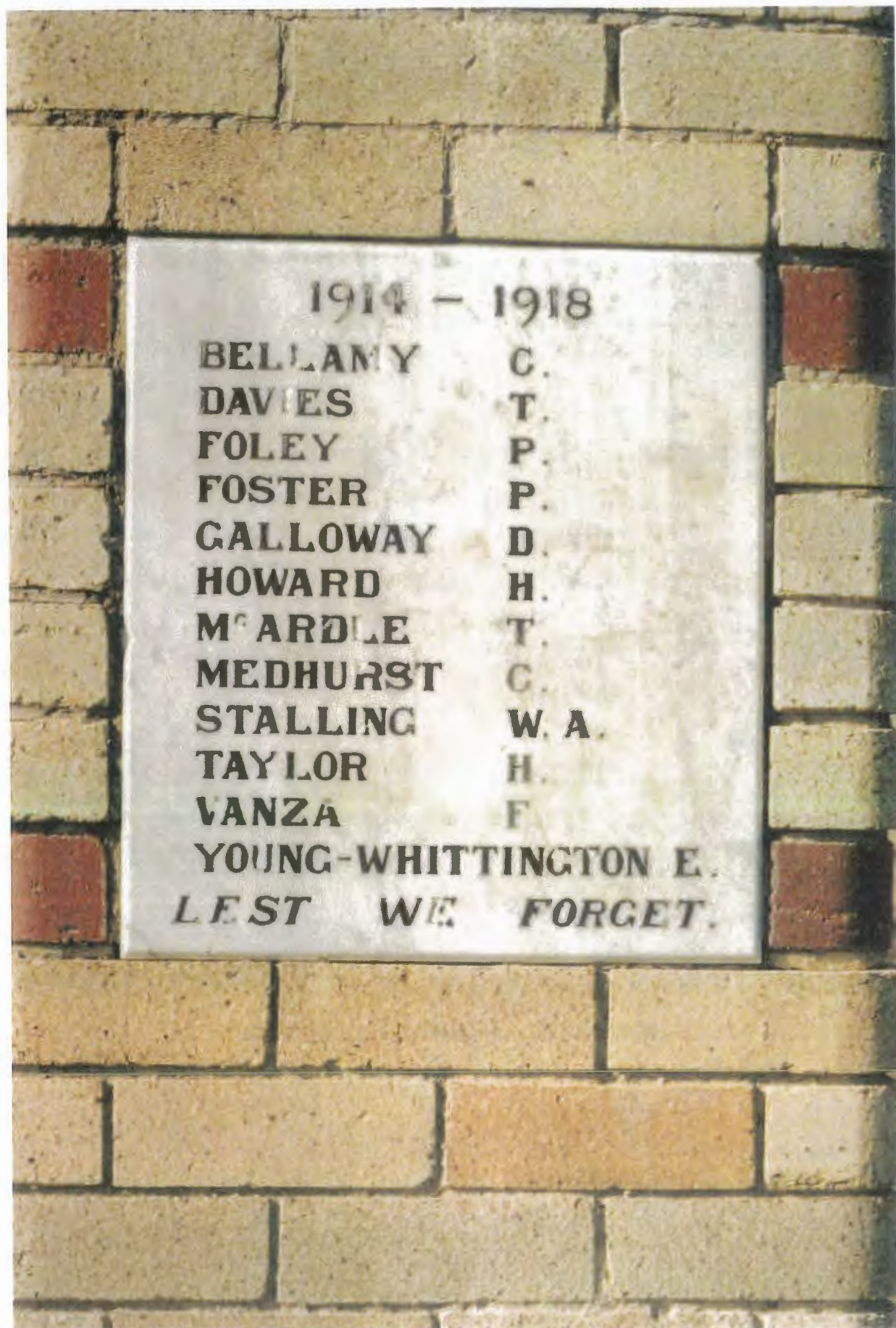
PTE. H. PERCY,  
Private.



WW1 Roll of Honour War Memorial at Mallanganee, NSW



WW1 Roll of Honour War Memorial at Mallanganee, NSW



WW1 Roll of Honour War Memorial at Mallanganee, NSW

## 184 Private Robert John Stalling



Robert was born on the 10th May, 1880 the 4th child born to Frederick and Elizabeth. He grew up with his brothers and sisters on the Cemetery Creek Tin Mines and attended the Amosfield Public School, was a member of the Liston and Amosfield Tug a War Team along with his brothers Tom, Edwin, Fred and George, he was a great bushman and a champion Woodchopper. His occupation was a grazer and he was also a partner with his brother Edwin Rupert Stalling in the property at Boorook via Sandy Hills NSW.

Robert enlisted in "A" Company of Carmichael's Thousand Rifleman, 36th Battalion AIF at Liverpool on the 7th February 1916 and had his medical examination after enlisting on the 10th February, 1916 where he was considered fit for active service. Listed in his medical report is that he had a vaccination scar on his left arm and a scar on his right knee, he was 35 years and 10 months old, 5 feet & 11 1/2 inches tall, weighing 164 lbs with a dark complexion, dark brown hair and blue eyes. Robert's next of kin was his youngest sister Mary Harriet Stalling of Wilson's Downfall Tenterfield, NSW.

Both Robert and his younger brother William attended the taking of their Oath together on the 7th February, 1916 at Liverpool and both brothers were certify, approve and appointed to "A" Company of Carmichael's Thousand Rifleman, 36th Battalion AIF at Broadmeadow on the 24th February, 1916



Robert John Stalling photo taken around 1903

Whilst in camp with the 36th Battalion at Broadmeadow Robert had been in the field hospital quite a while with a sever outbreak of eczema on both legs that was taking a long time to heal. Will wrote to his sister Florence on the 23rd April, 1916 saying that "he had been in the hospital for a couple of days with influenza and Bob had been in the field hospital since they came back and was going before the board of health on Monday".

On Robert's Medical Report presented to the medical Board on the 26th April, 1916 it states that he has had attacks of eczema for the last 8 years and had a sever attack of eczema while on camp both legs had broken out and were almost healed but the skin looks like it is liable to about to break out again. After 58 days service he was considered to have a permanent disability for Military Service and was given 1 week to 10 days final treatment in the field hospital before being discharged on the 2nd May, 1916.

This would have been very humiliating, embarrassing and shameful for him as he was being discharged medically unfit, while his brother William and his mates in "A"

Company were preparing to embark for Sydney and then to sail for active service on the Western Front. His mate Walter Merchant whose service number was 147 and serving with the 35th Battalion had already embarked on the 1st May, 1916 on the "Benalla" for active service on the Western Front.

Robert went back to the property, which he and his brother Edwin were partners, at Boorook and continued with his farming. He cleared the land of trees by hand using only his axe and lived in the shack on the property.



Robert John Stalling and his brother Edwin Rupert Stalling once owned this property in from Sandy Hills on the Boorook Road.

In those times very little was known about eczema and the sores on his legs that were very hard to heal. To save him from the stigma and humiliation which would follow after his discharge his family said he had flat feet. Until recently it was only known that he was discharged medically unfit because he had flat feet. It is now known that he had a sever eczema which it is thought to have been caused by a sever reaction to wool and the leggings that the soldiers wore as part of their uniform during WW1.

I could not even try to imagine how he would have felt with his brother Herman receiving white feathers, the Commonwealth Government not allowing his family the right to vote because of their German Heritage and then when the sad news filtered through that his second youngest brother Edwin had died of wounds on the 1st June, 1917 and then 5 months later his youngest brother William, whom he had enlist with in the Carmichael's Thousand Rifleman 36th Battalion 20 months earlier, was killed in action on the 12th October, 1917.

On the 28th November, 1918 Robert married Annie Knight the daughter of William and Annie Knight who were their neighbours on the other side of Cemetery Creek at Liston. Robert and Annie made their home on the property at Boorook where their children were born.

The property that Robert and his brother Edwin shared at Boorook had to be sold after Edwin's death and in accordance with the settlement of his will. Robert and Annie then moved their family up to Tenterfield first building a home at northern end of Rouse Street passed the Butter Factor and later relocating their home to Manners Street where their home still stands today. Robert was a quiet, unassuming man, a very good bushman and continued to be grazer owning the property known as "Main Camp" which was located between Boorook and Rivertree.

Robert passed way at Tenterfield on the 5th June, 1962 at the age of 82. He is resting in Tenterfield Cemetery next to his wife Annie and amongst his beloved New England Rangers.

The loss of the two Stalling brothers Edwin Rupert and William Aaron in World War 1 has been a lost that has saddened the whole Stalling family for generations afterwards. Even now as family members bow their heads in remembrance they shed their tears in silence as we remember them.



Robert John Stalling Photo by his son Bruce Stalling

## **Lest we forget**

Compiled and written by John Francis Stalling grandson of Robert and Annie Stalling of Tenterfield,  
NSW