



"Dedicated to Digger Heritage"

DIGGER

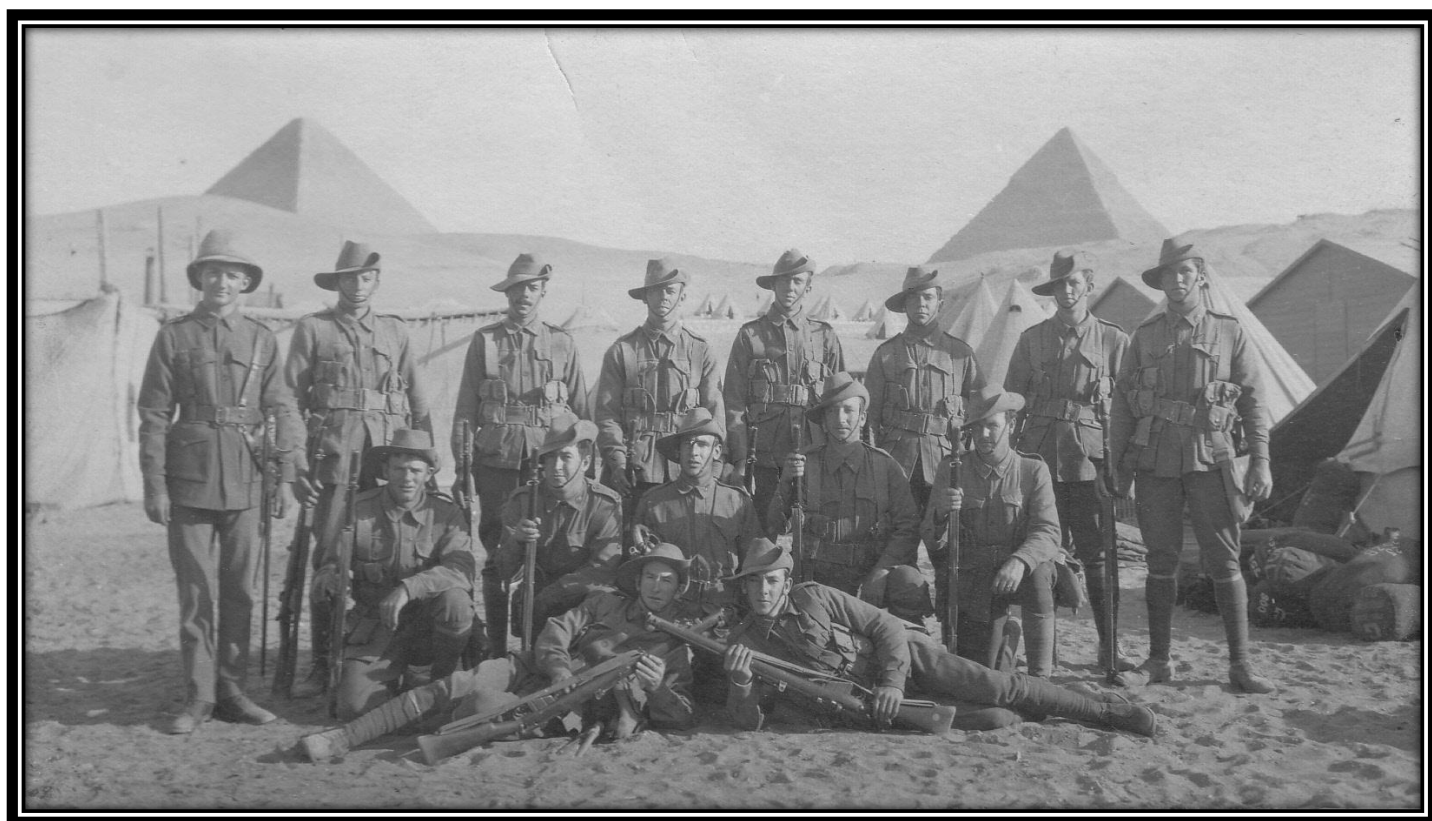


Photo: The men of No. 8 Section of 'C' Company, 2nd Battalion AIF, in camp at Mena, Egypt.
From the Marshal Roy Macdonald collection, courtesy of Jean Chase and Maurice Campbell.

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Notice of John Laffin Memorial Lecture Day 2012

The 2012 John Laffin Memorial Lecture will be held on **Sunday, 24 June, at Bathurst RSL Club**, 114 Rankin Street, Bathurst, NSW 2795 [ph: 02 6333 2999; www.bathurstsl.com.au], commencing at 11am. Lunch may be purchased at the club's excellent bistro.

The principal speaker is **Charlotte Descamps** who will give an in-depth presentation on 'Life on the Battlefields 94 years later'. Born in Poperinge, Belgium, in 1958, Charlotte Descamps has lived her entire life (to date) on the battlefields of the Ypres Salient. In 1998, Charlotte started the **Varlet Farm Bed & Breakfast** operation, specialising in hosting guests with an interest in the Great War. Varlet Farm B&B has been listed by tripadvisor.com as one of the 'Top 10 B&B and Inns' in Europe in 2011.

Charlotte became a qualified battlefield guide in 2004 and is a founding member of the Passchendaele Society 1917, a charity organisation that organises commemoration events in the Ypres Salient. This society was a driving force behind the events commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele. Charlotte's role also included carrying out research for the Passchendaele Memorial Museum 1917 at the British National Archives in Kew. She has also:

- guided battlefield tours for the NZ Embassy on Anzac Day from 2004 till 2009
- lectured to groups visiting Varlet Farm from all over the world, including students, army cadets, army officers, bomb disposal squads and amateur and professional historians
- established contact between the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 and the 48th Highlander Regimental Museum in Toronto, and
- represented the community of Zonnebeke at the inauguration of a new WWI memorial in Essex on November 4th, 2011.

In March 2011, Charlotte began her international speaking career at the annual seminar of the Western Front Association – Pacific Coast Branch in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Between March and December 2012 she will speak in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

It was decided to hold this year's lecture a little earlier than usual so as to allow those members participating in the Gallipoli extension of the 2012 FFFAIF Commemoration Tour a reasonable interval between the Lecture and the 2nd July departure date. Bathurst was chosen as a central venue, not too distant from Sydney and the Central West, where a good number of our members reside. The city was the birthplace of CEW Bean and home of the training depot for the 54th Battalion AIF. Bathurst has many historic buildings and memorials and is home to the Mount Panorama race track. Please **RSVP** by 21st June 2012, with numbers attending, to:

Secretary FFFAIF Inc

PO Box 4208

OATLEY WEST NSW 2223

or e-mail Chris Munro secretary@fffaif.org.au or phone **0448 266 634** (leave a message if unanswered).

FFFAIF thanks Bathurst RSL Club for its kind donation of a function room for the 2012 John Laffin Memorial Lecture.

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