

A Long Innings

Towards 150 Years of Cricket Across the Bass District

Written by Steven Oates August 2017 and
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Introduction

The history of cricket across the Bass District also reflects the development of settlement in the area. Located records of matches played between Kilcunda and Grantville exist from 1877, and it is certain that other matches were played between teams from other towns prior to this. Informal picnic events were arranged ad hoc, and some more formally organised competitions were also formed, usually based upon a trophy being donated by respected men of the District at that time. The exact locations of matches has varied, with current day towns such as Bass having once been known as Woolamai. Due to the passage of time, historical records from this period are limited to publications such as *The Argus*, *The San Remo Times*, *The Westernport Times*, *The South Bourke and Mornington Journal* and *The Powlett Express*.

Teams from Almurta, Bass, Bass Valley, Corinella, Cowes, French Island, Glen Alvie, Grantville, Griffiths Point (San Remo), Kilcunda, Queensferry, Rhyll, Wonthaggi and Woolamai were all formed prior to 1900. In the early years, teams were required to transport themselves by boat, bullock and cart, and horses. Transport was difficult due to poor quality roads which was an impediment on organisers to arrange games. At Annual General Meeting of the Grantville Cricket Club held on the October 15th, 1887, Culmer P. White stated '*the greatest difficulty being the distance the clubs are apart, and the means of conveyance.*'

On most occasions, lunches would be supplied by ladies for the players and matches were followed by a social function in the evening. Often, the visiting team would be hosted for an evening of song and dance at a local hall or Hotel following the match. It was often reported that the post match entertainment and camaraderie between teams was so great that return matches were to be held as soon as possible. The tradition of providing lunch and hosting visiting teams certainly was very strong in those days, a tradition that continues today.

Participants in these cricket matches included notable figures in the district, such as Hugh Anderson who played for the Woolamai team in 1882. Hugh and his brother Samuel Anderson are regarded as the pioneer settlers of the Westenport district. Reverend Herbert E. Potter played for both the Bass and Woolamai teams. In 1885 Reverend Potter, the first Anglican clergyman in the district, married Mary Anderson

who was the niece of Samuel and Hugh Anderson. Mr John Wallin Grout was a Justice of the Peace and was heavily involved in the Grantville Cricket Club, including leading the list of batting averages in 1887. In 1899 he died suddenly while President of the Shire of Phillip Island aged 37. The scheduled cricket match was cancelled the next Saturday and both the, Grantville and Lang Lang teams lead the funeral procession.

The status of being associated with cricket clubs was also important. Prominent businessmen were often elected in positions of the Executive such as Secretary and President. At the 1897 Bass Annual General Meeting, one of the Cricket Club Patrons was Alfred Downward, Member of Legislative Assembly. He was the Victorian Parliament Member for Mornington from 1894 until 1929 and featured as patron for various clubs over that time.

Annual matches between Phillip Island Shire Councillors and neighbouring shires developed, one off games between neighbouring schools from Grantville and Bass, youth matches, the 'Married men v Single men' as well as 'Ladies v Men'. Cricket matches were played on Christmas Day, New Years Day, Foundation Day and even matches held in honour of distinguished residents following their death. These matches formed a central place within these early communities as both a social gathering and entertainment.

The Early Competitions (1882 - 1914)

In 1882, the President of the Phillip Island and Woolamai Shire offered a trophy, creating the first formal competition between teams from Grantville, Phillip Island, Woolamai and Wonthaggi. The trophy was a silver plated emu egg inkstand manufactured to order by Mr F. Fergusson of 95 Little Collins Street, East Melbourne. At that time, teams from Bass, Woolamai, Queensferry, Rhyll, Cowes, Griffiths Point, Wonthaggi and the 'Mountaineers' were in existence.

The 'XYZ' competition was initiated in 1887 and was proposed by an unknown gentleman from the district who interestingly posted a notice in the 'To the Editor' section of the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* to see which teams would be interested in competing for a prize. Over a number of editions it was agreed that Grantville, Bass and Wonthaggi would compete, with the first match taking place on Saturday, the 4th of February 1888. Mr J. P. Paul of the Grantville team additionally donated a cricket ball for an award to the best average bowler and Mr. A. Edin, formerly of 'The Mountaineers' team offered a pair of cricketing shoes for the second highest aggregate scorer and a cricketing cap to each member of the winning team. Eventually the Grantville team were the winners and were the recipient of the prize awarded.

In outlining his plan to the letter of the editor of *The South Bourke and Mornington Journal* on November, 7, 1887 the author stated that his there were five teams in existence in the district, with the possibility of a sixth being established soon. He outlined the intention that '*a few friendly matches will cause the residents to visit each other, and by so doing exchange friendly greetings and sentiments*'.

The publication of correspondence relating to cricket in the district was not without controversy, with one letter signed 'cricketer' stating that some cricket matches in the Phillip Island district were played by some men on a Sunday and the XYZ competition should stipulate that this new competition should not allow those who do so to compete, so as to not offer '*a bonus for sabbath breaking*'. Over a period of weeks of letters to the editor it was identified that players associated with the Bass team were those being referred to.

In 1896, teams from Cowes, San Remo, Rhyll, Grantville, Tyabb, Somerville, Flinders, Wonthaggi and Lang Lang were all playing a mix of matches. Grantville would play Lang Lang and San Remo, but San Remo and Lang Lang themselves did not play any matches. Travel arrangement remained a handicap for the expansion of these matches across the districts, and games would remain within a workable travel radius for each club. A scheduled match in 1897 required the Grantville team to be ready at 6am for the boat trip to Cowes. Following the Grantville Cricket Club Annual General Meeting, on October 15, 1897 a request was published in *The San Remo Times*: '*The Secretary is now open to receive dates for matches with any club within 40 miles of Grantville.*'

In 1898, a Grantville and Queensfery Trophy consisting of a silver cup was offered to the club winning the most amount of games. At least four clubs were requested to compete and to nominate their interest in writing to the secretary of the Granville Cricket Club. It was suggested that the offering of a trophy would stimulate competition and interest in cricket in the district. Aside from entering such competitions, matches continued to be arranged ad hoc between teams from across the district. Even these events did not always go to plan, reported on February 24, 1899 the Grantville team travelled to Corinella for a match however the Corinella team did not turn up. Rather than going home, the Grantville team simply played a match amongst themselves on the Corinella ground.

The following season in November 1899, William Baker Lang initiated another Trophy to stimulate competition. He was the publican of the Granville Hotel who had previously held the position of Vice President of the Bass Cricket Club in 1897. Grantville were the winner of this new Trophy, with Wonthaggi runners up. Such was the popularity for this competition that seven teams competed for 'W. B Lang's Trophy' being Bass, Grantville, Monomeith, Loch, Glen Alvie, Bass Valley and Wonthaggi the following season in 1900/01.

Clubs were able to compete for various trophies over the same season, provided they could field a team, due to these competitions simply being arranged by the donor of the trophy that was being played for. The proposal of a specific trophy to be played for was motivation for teams to organise themselves into a structured tournament rather than each team arranging matches between themselves in a makeshift fashion.

In 1901-02 the publican of the Grantville Hotel, Mr. March, again donated a trophy for a competition of teams, and in doing so determined that all teams were play each other three times rather than twice, as occurred the previous summer. Teams in this competition were Bass Valley, Glen Alvie, Grantville, and Loch and it was also referred to as the Bass Valley Association.

In 1904 the Western Port Cricket Association was established which initially comprised Grantville, Rhyll, Wonthaggi, and Cowes; who were ultimately victorious. This became the framework for an association that would incorporate surrounding teams until the outbreak of the First World War.

The Great War and the Impact on Cricket in the District

Between 1914 and 1920 cricket in the district was put on hold until those servicemen that survived the War returned to the area. On March 3, 1916, it was reported that *'the district from Grantville to San Remo has done splendidly, Grantville has sent all the eligible young men and there are not more than half-a-dozen left in the Bass, Corinella and San Remo districts. Glen Forbes has also sent nearly every eligible single man'*

While filled with patriotic sentiment and support for those that have enlisted, the social pressures on the men of the district to enlist were also clear. On June 9, 1916 The Powlett Express published that:

Bass had done exceedingly well, and there were very few eligible men who had not enlisted.' Additionally, 'a few months ago there were 14 young men at Grantville, and these, together with 4 married men were now wearing the colors. There are a few notable exceptions in Kilcunda. Many complaints are being made about the poor response from the hill country of Glen Alvie. It is hoped that the young men there will soon respond and no longer deserve the application of 'cold feet.

Research has identified a list of players that took the field for these respective teams prior to their enlistment however due to limitations of available records it is highly probable there are several others. Many of these men suffered significant injury as a result of the war. Those marked with an asterix died and of those that survived and returned to Australia, many were inflicted with injury from gunshot, mustard gas or what would now be determined to be post traumatic stress, shell shock.

Bass	Corinella	Grantville	Kilcunda
Alex Bergmeier MM	Alfred Argent*	Robert Andrews*	Charles Bergmeier
Charles Bergmeier	Charles Bergmeier	Alex Bergmeier MM	Alfred George Alex Harley
James Albert Bothwell*	James Albert Bothwell*	Charles Bergmeier	Harrie Alexander Harley
George Hamilton	Francis Henry Goodman*	Charles William Hunt	Norman Frederick Ridgway
Charles Edgar Hyatt DCM	George Hamilton	William Lang	
Archibald McNabb	Leslie Maxwell Hamilton*	William Middlebrook*	
Henry Misson	Charles Herbert Palmer MM	George Oakley	
Henry Herbert Misson	Herbert Charles Stratford*	Thomas Sinclair Paul	
Rupert O'Meara		Fred Ernest White	
Arthur Edward Potter		Thomas H Monger	
Henry Leonard Potter			

The Resurgence of Competition Cricket

The Bass team was reformed in 1920 and while competition cricket was slow to be formalised, many informal picnic matches between teams from Corinella, French Island, Glen Forbes, Grantville, Kernot, Lang Lang, Queensferry, and Yanathon were taking place.

An established competition resumed when the Western Port Cricket Association was reformed in 1925 in which season Bass were the Premiers. Initially comprising of Bass, Corinella, Grantville, and Woolamai, it later expanded to incorporate teams from Phillip Island, Dalyston, and Kilcunda. As the population of local townships increased, cricket competitions evolved and teams with closer geographical links were able to form smaller associations. Many of the teams within competitions with some unable to sustain a full team for the season to ensure they could compete.

The Bass Cricket Club was the most successful club in the district winning six premierships from 1925 until competition in the district was again halted in 1939 due to the outbreak of the Second World War. It is possible that two more premierships were won in 1937/38 and 1938/39 with the Bass team making it into the Grand Final of each

year, however results of the final match for both season is unable to be located at this time.

Bass Cricket Club Associations and Premierships 1925 - 1973
Westernport Cricket Association (1925-1931)
1925-26 Premiers
1926-27 Premiers
1927-28 Premiers
Phillip Island and Westernport Cricket Association (1931 - 1934)
None
Bass and District Cricket Association (1934-1939)
1933-34 Runner Up
1934-35 Premiers
1935-36 Premiers
1936-37 Premiers
1937-38 Grand Final result unknown
1938-39 Grand Final result unknown
Westernport Cricket Association (1945-1956)
1954-55
Wonthaggi-Westernport-Phillip Island Cricket Association (1963-1972)
1963-64
1967-68

The Post War Period

Competition cricket was again reformed at the end of 1945 when the Bass District Association reformed comprising of four teams, Bass, Corinella, Dalyston, and Woolamai. This expanded to six teams with the inclusion of Glen Forbes and the Bass Colts. Corinella were premiers this year. The following year, Grantville replaced the Bass Colts team to form one of the six teams in the Westernport Cricket Association. These competitions formed the basis for competition cricket that still exists at Bass which has continued uninterrupted since 1945.

With neither club having enough players to field full sides, the Woolamai players merged with the Bass Club for the 1954-55 season. This was the last time that a team from Woolamai was in action, a team having been recorded as early as 1882. This amalgamation was a successful endeavour resulting in the premiership following a dominant outright win in the Grand Final against Kilcunda.

The next year, the Wonthaggi-Westernport Cricket Association was created with the merger of five teams from the Wonthaggi competition with five teams from the Westernport competition. This was the larger formal competition that the district had seen at that time in both the numbers of teams and area that the competition covered. Developments in transport significantly assisted the ability of teams to travel to meet each other during this period. Blackwood defeated Corinella in the Grand Final that year.

In 1963-64 the Corinella team disbanded with the remaining players being divided up by the Executive of the newly formed Wonthaggi-Westernport-Phillip Island Cricket Association and directed to join the Bass and Grantville cricket clubs respectively. It was thought that all players joining the same team would be unfair on the rest of the competition at that time. With the additional players from Corinella arriving in that season, Bass were victorious over the Blackwood Colts winning the first Premiership of the Association.

Four years later, the Grantville Cricket Club also disbanded, ending ninety years of cricket in that town. Many Grantville players moved on to the Bass Cricket Club that year and the Bass Cricket Club were again Premiers in the 1967-68 season. The demise of Corinella and Grantville over four years had informally resulted in an amalgamation of

these teams with with the Bass club even though this was not acknowledged in the naming convention of the Bass club itself.

Interestingly, the final transformation of the standalone Bass club occurred in 1973 when the Bass and Kilcunda cricket clubs amalgamated to become known as the Kilcunda Bass Cricket Club. This renaming and acknowledgement of the merger aligned with the Football club which had become 'Kilcunda Bass' in 1957.

The Kilcunda Bass Cricket Club stems from a long history of cricket in the district that a dates back to the 1870's. The Bass club has incorporated the Woolamai, Corinella, Grantville, and Kilcunda cricket teams over the past 60 years and remains a lasting legacy from the early days of settlement in the area. This evolution shows how the present day Kilcunda Bass Cricket Club is descended from the earliest days of cricket in the district and has survived the transformation of many towns and settlements to represent close to 150 years of local cricket history.

Cricketer Servicemen and their War Records

Charles Bergmeier - Bass, Corinella, Grantville and Kilcunda

In 1908, at the age of 21, Charles Bergmeier was the Secretary of the Bass Cricket Club and coordinated the matches played that season through invitations sent via the post. Charles played cricket matches locally for Corinella, Bass, Kilcunda and Grantville teams and was regarded as a gifted athlete, often successful in local sports competitions held across the district.

Following the 1913 Stawell Gift meeting, Charles and four other Australian professional athletes sailed to England to compete against the world's best in London and Manchester. It took them some time to acclimatise to the customs and very different track conditions. Charlie became World Champion winning the Half Mile event in August 1914.

Unable to return to Australia due to the outbreak of the War, he enlisted as an Australian joining a British north western Infantry Regiment, in the 22nd Manchester 7th Brigade.



Charles saw action at The Somme in France fighting in the trenches and in the woodlands. Battle weary and in very poor health, he was sent back to England and Scotland on two separate occasions to regain his strength.

After the war and prior to returning home to Australia, Charlie was invited to participate in the Inter Allied Games held in Paris, France in May and June 1919.

He competed in distance running events but he had not yet fully recovered from the effects of war. Pictured top right in the team photo below, he received the Inter Allied Games Medal and arrived back at Bass in November of that year.



Charles is pictured in the photograph above (left) in a heat for the 800m in Paris, 1919.

Charles lived in the district between 1919 -22 then again from 1928 to 1945 where he played for Woodleigh until he sold his farm at The Gurdies and leaving the Bass Valley at the age of 58 years. However, his cricketing days were not yet finished as he then carried on umpiring A and B grade cricket until he reached the age of 65 years.

Charles maintained his interest in cricket and made sure he was always able to listen to the Test matches on the radio. He also travelled each year to attend Athletic Meetings held at Echuca, Maryborough, Ararat, Stawell and Bendigo. He attended 1956 Olympic Games Melbourne and the Empire Games in Perth 1962. A major late in life achievement for him was when he trained his son Robert J. Bergmeier (Bob) to victory by winning the Grampian Stakes 2 mile event held in Stawell during Easter of 1957 and again in 1958. Charles had been attending Stawell since 1907 as a competitor, trainer and an interested bystander. His last meeting was in 1964, just a few months before his death.

Alexander Stanley Bergmeier MM Bass and Corinella

Charles' brother, Alexander (Alec) Bergmeier, also played cricket with Bass and Kilcunda before he joined the Army in 1915. He was wounded in his right foot in August 1916 and he was awarded the Military Medal for Bravery when on 10th and 11th of October, 1917

'at very great personal risk exposed himself under exceedingly heavy shell fire to dress and bandage several wounded men, and did not leave them until all had been removed to the R.A.P. This occurred during exceptionally heavy artillery fire'.

Alec was again wounded and then evacuated with a gunshot wound to his right thigh in 1918. Having attained the rank of Lance Corporal, Alexander Bergmeier MM returned to Australia. Records show that he played cricket for Corinella; listed in a losing grand final team against Bass in 1926/26 season. In the 1927/28 season, Alec played in the premiership team for Bass winning the Grand Final against Phillip Island.

James Albert Bothwell - Bass and Corinella

On the 11th of August, 1917 he was killed as a result of a discharge of a firearm while in camp in Egypt.

George Hamilton - Bass and Corinella

George Hamilton enlisted at the age of 27 on the 18th of September 1914, and was a farmer from Corinella. His brother Leslie enlisted 2 years later at the age of 26. He was wounded in active service with gunshot wounds on 3 separate occasions and returned home as a result in 1919.

Charles Edgar Hyatt - Bass

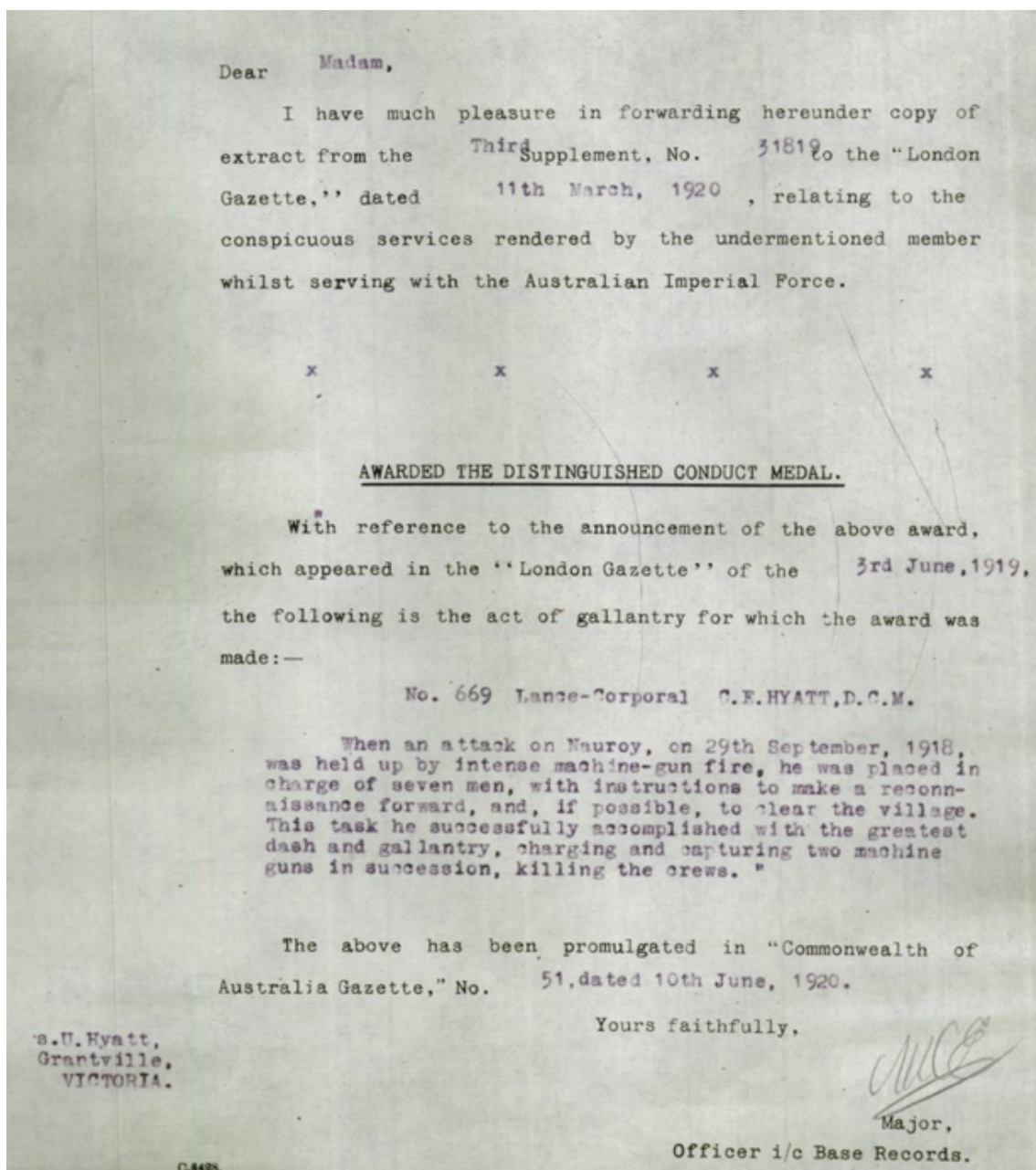
Charles Edgar Hyatt enlisted on 19 July, 1915 at the age of 23. He was a grocer from Grantville. He fought in France, and was wounded on 1 October 1916 before returning to action. Charles received the Distinguished Conduct Medal

'When an attack on Nauroy on 29 September, 1918, was held up by intense machine gun fire, he was placed in charge of seven men, with instructions to make a reconnaissance forward, and, if possible to clear the village. This task he successfully accomplished with the greatest dash and gallantry charging and capturing two machine guns in succession killing the crews.'

He returned to Australia at the end of the war.

Archibald McNabb - Bass

At the age of 21 Archibald Malcolm McNabb enlisted on 26 of February 1916. He was a grazier from Corinella. While in France in August 1918 he was wounded by Mustard Gas and returned injured to the England before the end of the war.



Henry Misson - Bass

Henry Misson was age 47 when he enlisted in 1915. Travelled to the Middle East and returned to Australia medically unit from Suez in 1917. His Son, also named Henry also enlisted. Henry played cricket for Bass for many years (check if was secretary)

Henry Herbert Misson - Bass

Henry Herbert Misson was farmer from Bass who was 24 when he enlisted May 30, 1916 (brother of Frank Misson) He was discharged as medically unfit before seeing active service abroad. His father, Henry also enlisted.

Rupert O'Meara - Bass

Rupert O'Meara and his 3 brothers enlisted, as reported in the Powlett Express 2nd of November 1916. Their father, J. B. O'Meara was a long time player and committee member for the Bass Cricket Club and was the publican of the Bass Hotel until 1896.

Kilcunda.

Mr C. Cook, of Poowong who has property here, has offered two houses containing 15 rooms to the Defence department, on practically their own terms, as a rest home for wounded soldiers.

The rainfall during January was 691 points. On the four wet days 596 points fell, viz., Friday, January 28, 128 pts., Saturday 61, Sunday, 365, and Monday, 42. The particulars have been kindly supplied by J. B. O'Meara, Esq., J.P.

A good example has been set to "shirkers" by the four sons of Mr. J. B. O'Meara, J.P., who have enlisted and been accepted for active service. One son Rupert, enlisted in New Zealand, and three others, Bernard Roy, Frederick Theodore, and Lenard of Woolamai, have joined locally.

Arthur Edward Potter - Bass

The son of Reverend H Potter and the great nephew of Samuel and Hugh Anderson. Arthur was a bank clerk who enlisted at the age of 19 in September 1915. He was promoted to Lance Corporal and wounded several times by gunshot in France and returned to Australia in June 1918 as a result of his injuries.

Henry Leonard Potter - Bass

Henry was the brother of Arthur Potter and was also a Bank clerk. He enlisted at the age of 21 in June 1916. He served in an administrative role before marching out the the Western Front in France in June 1918. He was wounded in action by artillery shell to his arm on 25th of August 1918, spent four month in hospital in England before return to Australia.

Alfred Argent - Corinella

A farmer prior to enlisting on 25 October 1916 at age 26, Alfred Argent embarked with the 18th Reinforcements from Melbourne on 23 November 1916.



He arrived in France for service on the Western Front on 31 August 1917. On 9 October 1917, Alfred was wounded in action at Passchendaele, Ypres, Belgium by multiple gunshot wounds.

He died the next day and was buried at the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Alfred was the uncle of Kilcunda Bass life member Murray Argent and Roy Argent, who was the 1st captain of the Kilcunda Bass first XI in 1973. Both Murray and Roy played many seasons for the Corinella team before playing for Bass.

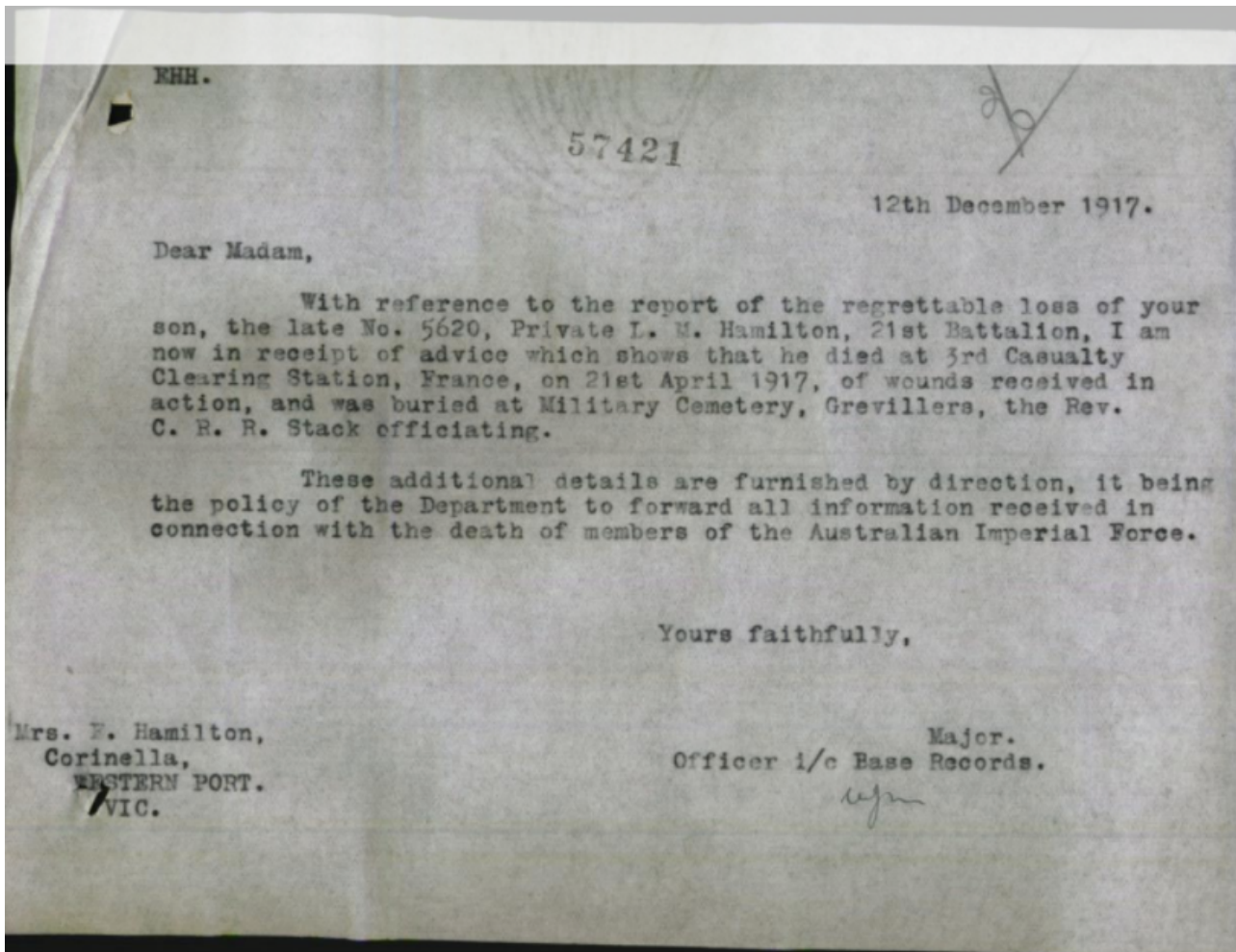
James Mahood, also a Life Member and current player for Kilcunda Bass, is a nephew of Murray and Roy Argent.

Francis Henry Goodman - Corinella

Frank Goodman, a farmer at Corinella, was 25 when he enlisted on 26 October 1916. He proceeded to the western front and was wounded in action on 4 October 1917 with shrapnel wound to his left thigh. After medical treatment in England, he returned to the front in April 1918. He was again injured with another shrapnel wounds to his thigh on 5 October 1918 and died less than 2 weeks later. He was buried in Boisguillaume Communal Cemetery, France.

Leslie Maxwell Hamilton - Corinella

A farmer from Corinella, Leslie enlisted on 1st August, 1916 at the age of 26. He was the brother of George Hamilton who also joined the Army in 1914. On 19th of April 1917 he received gunshot wounds to his legs and arms in while fighting in France and was moved to a military hospital. Leslie died 2 days later and buried in Grevillers, France.



Charles Herbert Palmer MM - Corinella

Charles Herbert Palmer was a fisherman from Corinella. He enlisted on the 18th of January 1916 at the age of 20.

'For conspicuous gallantry and leadership prior to and during a raid near VILLE SUR ANCRE on 23rd June 1918. He made a personal reconnaissance prior to the raid and brought back valuable information. By his cool demeanour, initiative and disregard of personal danger, he set a fine example to the remainder of the party and was largely instrumental in the success of the raid. When it was reported that his Officer could not be found after the party had left the Trench he immediately volunteered and went back to search for him. His action and conduct throughout are deserving of the highest praise.'

Herbert Charles Stratford - Corinella

Herbert Charles Stratford enlisted in March 1915 at the age of 20. He was a fisherman in Corinella who was living in the care of his grandmother. He was sent to Gallipoli on August 6, 1915 and was wounded the next day, received gunshot wounds to the head. He died on the 8th of August and was buried at sea.

Robert Frank Andrews MM - Grantville

Robert Andrews was a labourer from Grantville when he enlisted on July 15, 1915 at the age of 23. He was promoted to Lance Corporal and fought in France. He was awarded the Military Medal for valuable services and gallantry in maintaining communications under heavy fire at Pozieres, France on August 2, 1916. He received gunshot wounds in the shoulder and chest and was evacuated to England on 28 August 1916. He returned to fighting in December 1916 and was again wounded, this time fatally on 11th of February 1917. He was buried at Dernancourt Communal Cemetery, France.

21st. Battalion A. I. F.	2109	Lance-Corporal Robert Frank ANDREWS.	For most gallant work at POZIERES on 2nd. August 1916, in repeatedly crossing open ground to keep up communication between the two flank Companies in the Brigade line. His work under fire has been uniformly of the same standard.	G. O. C. 6th. Aust. Infantry Brigade.	Milit- ary Medal.
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Charles William Hunt - Grantville

Charles William Hunt enlisted at the age of 37 on the 4th of January, 1916. He was a Sadler that lived for many years in Grantville before moving his business to Dalyston just before the war began. He was named the best all round cricketer for Grantville Cricket club in 1896. He saw action in France before returning to Australia in 1919.

William Lang - Grantville

William Lang enlisted at the age of 18 on 5 May 1916. He was the son of Grantville Hotel Publican, W B Lang who for many years was President of the Grantville Cricket Club and was responsible for donating a trophy for the early local cricket competitions. He served as a driver in France until the end of the war, when he returned to Australia

William Middlebrook - Grantville

William Middlebrook was a labourer when he joined up on 11 September 1914 at the age of 20. He landed at Gallipoli on 22nd of May 1915, less than a month after the initial landing at Gallipoli. He was killed as a result of artillery fire on 29 July, 1915 and was buried at sea. Documents correlating with the death of William Middlebrook explain the circumstances of his death.

Private J. Duxbury, Heliopolis, 11 August 1915: *'Billy Middlebrook, who worked on the channels with Tom, got killed the other day. He & I were carrying water, two tins each, when a shell burst just behind us. The force of it knocked me down, but I was not hit. Poor old "Bill" was hit with four pieces. One piece went in at his back and came out at his stomach. He only lived nine hours.'*

T H Monger - Grantville

A journalist, TH Monger enlisted at age 31 in March 1918. He departed for Europe in July, assigned to the Light Horse Regiment and was in Egypt when the war ended. He returned to Australia in 1919.

George Oakley - Grantville

George Oakley was 25 when he enlisted on 15 July, 1915. He was wounded in action with gunshot on 5th of August 2016 but recovered ... explore this. Returned to Australia at the end of the war.

Thomas Sinclair Paul - Grantville

He was the son of JT Paul — show grantville connections to cricket club. J T Pail was President of Grantville CC in 1897.

Thomas Paul listed his occupation as 'commercial traveler' when he enlisted at age 28 on 9 July 1915. He was posted in France attached to the postal corps and returned to Australia at the end of the war.

Fred Earnest White - Grantville

Fred Ernest White was 21 when he enlisted on 28 December 1915.

He was wounded in action on 5 November 1916 in Belgium and on 4 October 1917 in Belgium with gunshot wound to the chest which fractured his ribs. He returned to the front on 4 April 1918. On 26 August 1918 was again wounded with gunshot wound to the thigh while fighting in France. He returned to Australia after the war in April 1919. Fred was the son of Mr Culmer White, a stalwart of Grantville Cricket Club.

Alfred George Alexander Harley - Kilcunda

Alfred Harley was 21 when he enlisted on 23 August, 1916. He was a musician at that time. He was twice wounded in action, once a gunshot wound to his right eye in May 1917, on the second occasion on 6 April 1918, a gunshot wound which resulted in his leg being amputated due to the injury he received. He returned to Australia in August 1918.

Harrie Alexander Harley - Kilcunda

Harrie Alexander Harley was a farmer when he enlisted at age 28 on 11 February 1918. He reached Egypt in August 1918 and returned to Australia at the end of the war.

Norman Frederick Ridgway - Kilcunda

Norman Ridgway was a driver when he enlisted at age 27 on 18 August 1914. He was wounded in France as a result of gas in 1916. He was promoted to Lieutenant however this injury caused ongoing issues such as tonsillitis for which he was again hospitalised in 1917. He returned to Australia in 1918.

Researched and written by Steven Oates August 2017 with the assistance of a Local History Grant