

# Swan Guildford Historical Society (Inc.) founded 1962

Patrons: Ken Wyatt, AM. MP Donna Faragher, MLC

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## Newsletter

November - December 2014

### COMING EVENTS

Monday 10 November 2014

Speaker: **Robert Mitchell**



Curator of the Army Museum of WA  
**Talk: Lieutenant General Talbot Hobbs  
architect and soldier**

Mr Mitchell has a special interest in  
and an encyclopaedic knowledge of  
military history, which began with  
his experience in the Canadian armed forces.

He has been an active volunteer for many of  
the State's heritage bodies, including  
Museums Australia, the Kings Park Honour  
Avenue Committee, Rottneest Voluntary  
Guides, the Scout Museum, the National  
Trust and the Army Museum.

Time: 7 00pm for 7 30pm

Place: Mechanics Institute Meadow St

All welcome

### 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GUNNERS DAY

The Royal Australian Artillery Assoc WA

Invite you to the Annual Gunners Day  
Parade

To be held in Stirling Sq. Guildford

Sunday 9 November

11 00am

The Australian Army band will lead the  
procession followed by

Members from the Royal Australian Artillery  
Association WA

2/7<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Regiment

2/3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Field Regiment

Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society WA

Light & Heavy Anti-Aircraft Assoc

current serving officers and soldiers from 3 Light  
Battery RAA

**Flag party bearers will be the Australian Army  
Cadets**

### GAOL OPEN

Wednesday 9 30am – 2 00pm

Friday 9 30am – 2 00pm

Saturday 9 00am – 12 30pm

Thanks to Warren Harvey visitors to the  
Gaol can receive a gift of a 1 cent and 2 cent  
coin. The coins were first introduced with  
decimalization on 14 February 1966. The  
coins were produced by the Royal Australian  
Mint, the Royal Mint, Melbourne, the Royal  
Mint, Perth, the Perth Mint and the Royal  
Mint, Llantrisant. The 2 cent coin was the  
last circulating coin for Australia struck  
outside the Royal Australian Mint. Both  
coins were withdrawn from circulation  
commencing in February 1992.



Gaol situated in the Historic Precinct  
Meadow St

### Did you Know?

In 1853 a justice room (courthouse) was  
added to the existing Gaol which was built in  
1841 and extended in 1851, these sections  
were demolished in 1917.

The Justice room remains today and is  
situated in the centre of the wings built in  
1867



Thank you City of Swan for the excellent  
work on restoration of the exterior of the  
Gaol.

**CAPTAIN JOSEPH ERIC PIERCY M.C. & BAR, ED.**  
 By Glenis Piercy Member of SGHS & Deputy Convenor Swan River Pioneers

My late father J. Eric Piercy was born in Magill South Australia on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1890, the seventh and youngest child of Frederick and Emma (nee Silver). The family moved to Western Australia in 1894, settling at [71] James Street Guildford. Eric was educated at the Guildford Primary School and Perth Boys High School, later becoming a pattern maker and mechanical engineer with the locomotive department of the Western Australian Government Railways. He served for three years and four months in the 11<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Regiment prior to joining the AIF at Blackboy Hill on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1914. Assigned to 'C' Company of the original 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion with regimental number 343, he departed for overseas as a lance corporal on HMAS *Ascanius* on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1914.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion was one of the covering force battalions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade in the Landing at Gallipoli in the early morning of 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915; he was wounded in action that day and was evacuated by hospital ship and admitted to the Tigne Hospital in Malta on 4<sup>th</sup> May. This was the first of several woundings during the course of the war.

Eric was taken on strength of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1917 remaining with the 16<sup>th</sup> for the duration of the war. On the 31<sup>st</sup> October he was promoted to Lieutenant. During his time with the 16<sup>th</sup> he was decorated for bravery, awarded the Military Cross and Bar to the Cross. The citation for the cross said he led a forward party in a raid, had destroyed the enemy's protective wire and attacked an enemy trench. He then satisfied himself that no wounded had been left behind and used his men to cover the retirement of the raiding party.

On his return from the war he worked in various jobs including being licensee of the Vasse Hotel in Busselton. In 1938 he married Phyllis Enid Pearl Cook a young lady from Midland. In 1940 he re enlisted for army service and was promoted to Captain with the Army Intelligence as an Instructor. At the completion of his army service he worked for the Department of War Service Land Settlement until his retirement.

My father is on the Cheops Pyramid; it was a great thrill to identify him as one of the 700 odd 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Anzacs.

**It is certainly an honour that my father is one of the 32 Anzacs being recognised at the Albany Centenary on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.**

***Membership fees for 2015 subscription \$20.00 per person.***

I ENCLOSE PAYMENT FOR	SUBSCRIPTION \$20 00 pp	\$ _____
	DONATION	\$ _____
	TOTAL	\$ _____

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Cheques to be made payable to Swan-Guildford Historical Society (Inc) and returned with this form to:  
 TREASURER, SGHS, P.O. Box 33, GUILDFORD, WA. 6935

*The mission of the SGHS is to collect, conserve, research, interpret and display the development of the early Guildford settlement as a port supporting the Swan Valley agricultural region, the development of the Swan River Colony up to Federation and the ongoing history of the town of Guildford and the Swan Valley Region and to interpret with integrity the history of the people and places.*