**Cheltenham’s Soldier Home 1916**

**NSW Births Deaths & Marriages**

Marriage 1914 – William C. Bowden & Mabel F. Smith, West Maitland

No children

Death 1918 – William C. Bowden, parents: William A. & Catherine, Ryde

Death 1939 – Mabel Florence Bowden, parents: Edwin Henry & Martha Eliza, Kogarah

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 15 April 1916, page 8**

CHELTENHAM.

THE SOLDIER'S HOME.

Members of the Hornsby Voluntary Workers' Association spend their Saturday afternoons assisting to build a home for a returned soldier at Cheltenham. Last Saturday the Epping Band enlivened the score, with a programme of inspiriting music, and the Boy Scouts turned out in force with flags flying. The latter also assisted in the carrying of bricks and timber, being in charge of a young Cheltenham amazon, who acquitted herself in a business-like manner. Mr. W. Thompson, M.L.A., was present. Dainty refreshments were served at 4 p.m., this department being in the capable hands of Mesdames O'Brien and Lumby (Hornsby) and Messrs. Kenyon and Buckwell (Cheltenham). The attendance numbered about 60.

**Sun (Sydney, NSW: 1910 - 1954), Saturday 29 April 1916, page 6**

HOMES FOR SOLDIERS

WORK IN THE SUBURBS

Dr. Arthur had the satisfaction of seeing the third house completed on Saturday at French's Forest, where homes are being erected for wounded men and soldiers' widows. There are seven other homes also in process of erection. Last week a number of the boys of the Sydney Grammar School spent their Easter holidays in clearing the land at French's Forest. The Church of England Grammar School sent £120 to the funds of the Voluntary Workers' Association. On Friday night a new branch of the association was started in Manly. In addition to this, new branches have been formed within the last fortnight at Bankstown, Roseville, Guildford, and Kogarah. Branches are now in process of formation at Chatswood, Lane Cove, Leichhardt, Waverley, Westmead, Wentworthville, Dundas, and Bexley. It is hoped within a few weeks that suburban soldiers' homes will be in process of erection in 20 of the suburbs. The people of Hornsby are now completing a home which has been erected at' Cheltenham.

**Sun (Sydney, NSW: 1910 - 1954), Friday 19 May 1916, page 5**

HOMES FOR SOLDIERS

ONE READY AT CHELTENHAM

The first suburban home to he completed under Dr. Arthur's scheme will be opened at Cheltenham, near Hornsby, to-morrow afternoon at 3.30. Miss Strickland will perform the opening ceremony, as the State Governor will not be able to attend. Visitors from

Sydney will take the 2.33 train. On Saturday week, another home erected by the Voluntary Workers' Association for a young man of 21, named Burgess, who Is blind from the effects of a bullet wound in the face, will be opened at Guildford, when the home will be handed over to Private Burgess, who has married since he returned from the front. On Saturday fortnight, another home will be opened at Kogarah and another wounded soldier, Private Turbet, will take possession. Last week, branches of the Voluntary Workers' Association were established at Wentworthville and Merrylands. Next week, branches will be formed at Bexley, Randwick, and Granville.

**Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Saturday 20 May 1916, page 19**

HOMES FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

The first suburban home completed by the Voluntary Workers' Association will be opened at Cheltenham this afternoon by Miss Strickland, daughter of the State Governor. Visitors from Sydney will take the 2.33 train.

**Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW: 1876 - 1954), Monday 22 May 1916, page 5**

CHELTENHAM SOLDIERS' HOME.

SYDNEY, Sunday.

Another soldiers' home, provided at Cheltenham by the Voluntary Workers' Association of Hornsby, was made available for residence yesterday. The occupants will be Corporal W. C. Bowden and his wife.

The cottage was formally dedicated for their use by Miss Strickland yesterday afternoon. Corporal Bowden, wise took part in the Boer war, left a comfortable position at Jervis Bay Naval College for service in the precent war. He was invalided home, suffering from heart affection. The cottage, which stands on two acres of Crown land, is near Cheltenham station, and is valued at £300. The land will be held by the Crown on the perpetual lease system, the nominal rent being £2 per annum.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Monday 22 May 1916, page 8**

SOLDIER'S HOME.

VOLUNTARY WORK AT CHELTENHAM.

ADDRESS BY MISS STRICKLAND.

The Hornsby branch of the Voluntary Workers' Association has built a cottage at Cheltenham for a returned disabled soldier, and Miss Strickland, representing the Governor, formally handed it over on Saturday afternoon to Corporal William Campbell Bowden. Corporal Bowden, it may be stated, also served in the South African War.

Within a stone's throw of the railway station, and perched on a high position, so that It commands a view of the wooded country that is drained by the Lane Cove River, the cottage has an ideal situation. It has really been handed over before it Is actually finished, and the noise of the hammers at work on Saturday were heard before and after the ceremony at which the Governor's daughter gracefully assisted, making a speech that was the feature of the afternoon's proceedings, as a result of the gratuitous labour performed by the Hornsby voluntary workers, Corporal Bowden and his wife have a home that, as building costs now go, could not be erected for less than about £300. He will get it for what the material has cost, about £110, the payment of which will be spread over a long period of years. With the home is a parcel of land some two acres in extent, the rent of which will be £2 yearly, and the corporal will engage in poultry farming on a small scale to enable him to make ends meet.

At the afternoon's function the speakers expressed their thanks to the voluntary helpers for the good workmanship they had put into the building of the cottage, and to the firm and Individuals who had given assistance either by direct gifts or by selling the association material at cost price, The cottage rests on brick foundations, 3000 bricks having been sent by a local resident as a present. Boys and girls helped to bring the bricks-from the foot of the hill to the scene of operations. The work of the voluntary helpers has been made as pleasant as possible. The local band put in an appearance during the afternoon, and cheered them up by enlivening strains, while the Boy Scouts and played an afternoon round about the building doing whatever odd jobs were required of them. Every Saturday afternoon a kind committee of ladies regaled the workers with afternoon tea.

The spirit that prevails with regard to these homes for returned soldiers was mentioned from the platform. A passer-by in the train noticed that the chimney was a bit too squat for his artistic eye, and he and a friend sent two chimney pots to be installed - an admitted improvement.

There was a large gathering on Saturday, Mr. J. Haydon Cardew presiding. The honorary secretary, Mr. J. S. Inch, remarking upon the self-sacrifice shown by those who had stated in the good cause, said "All these things go to show that the world is not such a bad place after all." Mr. Cardew said that so many loyal and earnest workers had brought about this result out of gratitude to such men as Corporal Bowden for the service rendered to King and country.

"I am very pleased to be here to-day," said Miss Strickland, and to congratulate you on

the splendid patriotic work you are doing." She desired also to congratulate the ladies

who had been helping the workers, because it was very thoughtful of them. They could never do enough to show their appreciation of those who had gone to the front to risk their lives for their country. "I hope," continued Miss Strickland, amid hearty applause, by "that this will all be an encouragement for others to come forward and offer their services, because more troops are wanted for the war." She hoped that Corporal Bowden,

and his wife would live long in the home that the people of this district had erected for them, and she had very much pleasure in dedicating it and declaring it open.

Mr. G. Fitzpatrick, the hon, secretary of the Voluntary Workers' Association, pointed out the scope that existed for citizens to help in the building of these homes, even though Saturday afternoon sport had to be foregone.

On the motion of Mr. Thompson, M.L A., a vote of thanks was accorded Miss Strickland. Mr. W. Crittenden who was in charge of the building operations, and spoke with rolled-up shirt-sleeves and in carpenter's apron, supported the vote.

The proceedings terminated with cheers for the voluntary workers and the King.

**Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Monday 22 May 1916, page 9**

ANOTHER SOLDIERS' HOME.

Erected at Cheltenham.

Miss Strickland opened the first suburban home to be completed under Dr. Arthur's scheme for utilising voluntary labor to provide houses for disabled soldiers and war widows, at

Cheltenham on Saturday. Miss Strickland represented the State Governor, who Is patron of the association, and handed over the home built by the Hornsby branch to Corporal Bowden, who at the outbreak of war resigned a lucrative Government position to go to the front. Corporal Bowden also won war clasps and medals in the Boer war.

“My father was very interested in this scheme," said Miss Strickland, in handing over the home to Corporal Bowden and his wife. "He will be delighted when I tell him how effectively the Hornsby branch has worked, and with what good results. We cannot do enough for the men who have done so much for us all, and yet people up here have shown practical gratitude "

Mr. Cardew, president of the Hornsby branch. In welcoming Miss Strickland to the district contended that the voluntary workers at homo were doing quite as useful work as if they were actually at the front. He thought that all men who were prevented from getting into the actual fighting line should be working here for those who were Injured.

Mr. Inch, the local secretary, read a long list of donors, including Mr. James, the shire president, who had supplied all the timber at actual cost price. A local brickyard had also given a donation of 3000 bricks. The secretary pointed out that there was an opportunity for everyone to assist in money or kind, A local dentist had taken advantage of this and offered £3 3s worth of professional work to Corporal or Mrs. Bowden.

Mr. W. Thompson, M.L.A., proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Strickland, which was supported by Mr. George Fitzpatrick (hon. organising secretary) and Mr. Crittenden (who was largely personally responsible for the actual erection of the cottage).

Corporal Bowden, voiced the gratitude which both his wife and himself felt to Dr. Arthur and the generous members of the Voluntary Workers' Association, who had given up their time in order that he should have a decent chance to have a home of his own.

During the afternoon Mrs. Lumby dispensed afternoon tea. The local branch consists of the following: - President, Mr. J, Haydon Carew; vice-presidents Rev. J. F. Blair, Mr. P. A. James (President, Hornsby Shire); committee, Mesdames O'Brien and Lumby, Messrs. Glynn, Moyes, and Crittenden; hon, secretary, Mr. James S. Inch.

**Farmer and Settler (Sydney, NSW: 1906 - 1955), Tuesday 23 May 1916, page 3**

A SOLDIERS' HOME.

Voluntary Work at Cheltenham.

The Hornsby (Sydney) branch of the Voluntary Workers' Association has built a neat little cottage home for a returned soldier at Cheltenham (N.S.W.). and on Saturday afternoon last this was formally handed over to Corporal William Howden, by Miss Strickland, representing the Governor of New South Wales. The cottage is valued at about £300, but Corporal Bowden and his wife will only have to pay part of the cost of the material - £140 - and this will be spread over a long term of years, The home is built on an allotment of about 2-acres, the annual rent for which is £2, and Mr. Bowden will engage in poultry farming. He is a Boer war veteran.

**Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW: 1870 - 1919), Wednesday 24 May 1916, page 15**

Homes for Soldiers.

The first suburban home, at Cheltenham, to be completed by the Hornsby branch of the Voluntary Workers' Association for a disabled soldier, was formally handed over by Miss Strickland on May 20 to Corporal W. C, Bowden. The house, which is valued at £300, will cost Corporal Bowden £140, the actual cost of the material. The payment will be spread over a period of years. He will also pay £2 a year for the land, about two acres in extent. He intends to engage in poultry farming. The material for the house was either presented free or sold to the association at cost price. A local resident presented 3000 bricks, which were carried to the site by boys and girls of the district.

**Mirror of Australia (Sydney, NSW: 1915 - 1917), Saturday 27 May 1916, page 16**

AN ANZACS HOME AT CHELTENHAM - AND HERE IS A JOLLY COUPLE READY TO OCCUPY IT.



A view of the opening of an Anzac's cottage at Cheltenham (N.S.W.) by Miss Strickland, daughter of the State Governor. The home was built by tradesmen, who worked during week-ends without pay, whilst professional men worked as builders' laborers. Similar homes are being erected all over the State by the Voluntary Workers' Association, the members of which are men who are unable to go the front. The second picture shows one of the "returned wounded" being welcomed at the wharf by the girl he left behind him. Who knows but that one of these cottages has been built for them?

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 7 June 1916, page 2**

THE MUDDLED HOMES.

The soldiers’ home at Cheltenham isn't an inspiring example of how the Voluntary Workers' Association does things, and only confirms our opinion that some people are more concerned about getting into the limelight than “doing their bit.” The home Isn't finished, and the official opening was rushed on from Sydney evidently to let some people bask in the sunshine of Government House ladies and suits, while the hard-workers on the home were not even notified of the opening! Needless to say, much harm has been done to the patriotic cause in that portion of the State, and the home, which Is planked down in a wilderness of rocks, is far from finished, and evidently likely to remain so through the bungling and meddlesomeness of people In Sydney. As we said last issue, we are glad the practical Granville people refused to be fooled, and it is hoped the Government will step In and prevent the slipshod way things are now being done in the name of patriotism.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 10 June 1916, page 8**

CHELTENHAM.

THE SOLDIERS' HOME MUDDLE.

The house being erected under the auspices of the Hornsby Voluntary Workers' Association for Corporal Bowden, though officially opened a couple of weeks ago, by Miss Strickland, is not yet finished; and, as some friction has arisen over the manner in which the function was arranged, various members of the association not having been invited to the ceremony, the president, Mr. J. H. Cardew explains that the date of the opening was arranged by Lieutenant Fitzpatrick, so that there was no time to make proper arrangements. Many who had taken an interest in the project and had given much self-denying work to it were disappointed in not being able to be present, owing to the notice being too short, or through not receiving any intimation at all. The committee were very sorry for the unfortunate affair, for which they were in no way responsible. It. was never intended by them to open the cottage before it was completed. Plenty of work still remained to be done with picks and shovels, and there is also need for a few carpenters and painters, and he hopes that helpers will come along each Saturday afternoon till the work is finished. A representative of “The Argus” paid a visit to the selection, which is proposed to be used as a bee and a duck farm; and his impression was that a more hopeless proposition it would be hard to find. Part of the two acres and be it mentioned, the only level part is taken up by an old railway cutting. The rest of the “land” is barren rock and precipices, with plenty of small sandstone boulders. The only things likely to be raised there would be corns of the feet of the ducks. If the Government leased the land to Corporal Bowden for a peppercorn per year, it would be collecting the full value of the site.

**Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW: 1901 - 2001), Friday 14 July 1916 (No.125), page 4133**

Department of Lands,

Sydney, 14th July, 19l6.

NOTIFICATION SETTING APART CROWN LANDS FOR SUBURBAN HOLDINGS—TO BE DISPOSED OF TO RETURNED SOLDIERS EXCLUSIVELY.

County: Cumberland

Parish: Field of Mars

Portion comprised in Suburban Holding: 816, 817 & 818

Area of Suburban Holding: 1r 25p (816); 1r 4p (817) & 0r 17p (818)

Capital value for first period of 20 years: 1p 0s 6d; 1p & 1p 7s 6d

Nearest Town and distance therefrom: About 16 miles from Sydney and from ¼ to ½ mile from Cheltenham platform.

Character of Land, Soil, Timber etc. Water Supply: very steep and rocky, with outcrops of sandstone; the natural growth comprises gum, stringybark, and thick scrub; fronting a road a chain wide and extending to Devlin’s Creek.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 30 June 1917, page 8**

FOR THE BRAVE.

An effort Is to be made early next month to form a branch of the Voluntary Workers' Association at Beecroft. When it was reported at a recent meeting of the progress association that a local soldier's wife was in need of improvements being effected to her home a very substantial sum was subscribed in a few minutes. It was subsequently found that the lady did not require the money so freely subscribed.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 21 July 1917, page 8**

TO HELP THE BRAVE.

At the meeting of the Beecroft Progress Association this week the president reported that a public meeting had been held with a view to forming a Voluntary Workers' branch. It was rather poorly attended, and the proposal was received in a lukewarm fashion. Mr. Holcombe said he thought something should be done. There were, however, very few mechanics or artisans in the district who could erect cottages, but if it came to a question of merely of raising money the district could do that very well. Something might be done m the direction of insuring soldiers. Mr. Hartwell said that the rifle club had formulated a scheme for assisting soldiers and their dependents on the lines of the Jewish Aid Society. That scheme was progressing well, when the Government dropped down on it and ruled that all repatriation schemes, must come from them. Mr. Baker pointed out that the Voluntary Workers' Association was worked on the same lines as the Jewish Aid Society. It was decided on the motion of Mr. Hartwell, to postpone further discussion on the matter until the Government divulged its repatriation scheme.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Wednesday 28 May 1919, page 6**

AUCTION SALES.

TO-MORROW, THURSDAY, AT 10.30 O'CLOCK,

at the rooms,

250 PITT-STREET

(four doors from Park-street).

Removed from the residence of Mrs. Gray, Woollahra; **Mrs. Bowden, Cheltenham**; and various other vendors.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Monday 4 October 1920, page 6**

DEATHS.

GAAL - October 2 1920, at her residence 51 Rose-street, Darlington, Elizabeth Jane (Doll), dearly loved mother of Mr and Mrs. Ted **Gaal** and grandmother of Teddy, Roy, and Ray of **Cheltenham**.

**Boer War & WW1 Records**

**William Campbell Bowden**

Reg No. 122

Rank: Private

Unite Name: New South Wales Imperial Bushmen

State: NSW

Shearer born 1874 Auckland NZ

348 Scouts, Queen’s South African medal and 4 clasps

WW1 AIF 1230 Private, shearer, aged 40 from Rockdale NSW

Next of kin: wife in Rockdale NSW

South Africa Imperial Bushmen 1 year 109 days Doyle’s Aust. Scouts Transvaal Vols. Northern Rifles 2 years 3 months Legion of Frontiersmen, died in 1918



**Description on enlistment:**Age: 40 years 10 months

Height: 5 feet 4 ¼ inches

Weight: 142 lbs

Chest measurement: 33-36 ½ inches

Complexion: Fair

Eyes: Grey

Hair: Grey

Religious denomination: C.E.

Medical condition: Chronic bronchitis in Oct 1915; aortic condition probably old.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Tuesday 17 September 1918, page 5**

FUNERALS.

BOWDEN. - The Friends of Mrs. M. BOWDEN are Invited to attend the funeral of her late beloved HUSBAND, William Campbell; to leave her residence, Day-street, Cheltenham, THIS DAY, at 9.30 a.m., for Church of England Cemetery, Field of Mars.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 21 September 1918, page 12**

DEATHS.

BOWDEN - September 15, 1918, at his residence, Day-road, Cheltenham, William Campbell, late corporal, 7th Light Horse, A.I.F., also sergeant. Imperial Bushman Boer War, aged 44, beloved husband of May Bowden.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 28 September 1918, page 8**

DEATH OF A VETERAN.

Mr. Wm. Campbell Bowden, lately a corporal in the A.I.F., died at his residence, Day-road, Cheltenham, on the 15th inst. from heart failure. The late Corporal Bowden took part in the Boer War, and held the rank of a sergeant in the Imperial Bushmen's Regiment. In the present war he served in Egypt and was invalided home on account of his heart being strained. The Hornsby Voluntary Workers built his cottage at Cheltenham, and the late corporal and his wife considerably improved the barren block on which it is built. The funeral moved to the Field of Mars Cemetery on Tuesday.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Monday 4 December 1939, page 7**

FUNERALS.

BOWDEN-The Relatives and Friends of the late Mrs MABEL FLORENCE BOWDEN (nee Smith) are kindly Invited to attend her Funeral to leave her late residence 20 Barden Street Arncliffe THIS (Monday) AFTERNOON after Service commencing at 2 o'clock, for the Woronora Cemetery.

**Propeller (Hurstville, NSW: 1911 - 1954), Thursday 7 December 1939, page 7**

DISTRICT DEATHS

Mrs. Mabel Florence Bowden, of Barden Street, Arncliffe, died last Saturday at the St. George District Hospital, aged 55 years.