

Vol 4 No. 6

JUNE 1988

The Morwell Historical Society News

Published Monthly (Except Dec)

Meets every 3rd Tues,
of the month at 7:30pm
Collins St. Primary
School.

Secretary Mrs. E. Mc Master.

PH 341149

WELCOME TO THE JUNE NEWSLETTER

One hope this newsletter holds some interest. Winter is not an exciting time of the year, especially for those who cannot escape to a warmer Northern climate.

Included is an assignment completed by Sharon McMaster (Year 10 Morwell Campus) which was done for the history unit - Australians at War. This is evidence that some constructive work is being done in secondary schools.

The inclusion of R.H.S.V excursions was a suggestion from our May meeting.

* The voting on the resolutions adopting Incorporation will take place at the July meeting. It is therefore important that as many people as possible attend this meeting in order that Incorporation can proceed. If a majority of members are not present, voting cannot proceed.

The photocopied article re Morwell is provided by Paddy Morgan via Clare Wood. Thanks also to Jess Cafiso for the Bi-Centenary article.

CAUSES OF THE WAR.

The actual causes of The First World War are still under discussion but there were many things that contributed to this great war.

First there were the rivalries and jealousies between many European countries. Alliances were formed between some of these countries which made rivalries worse.

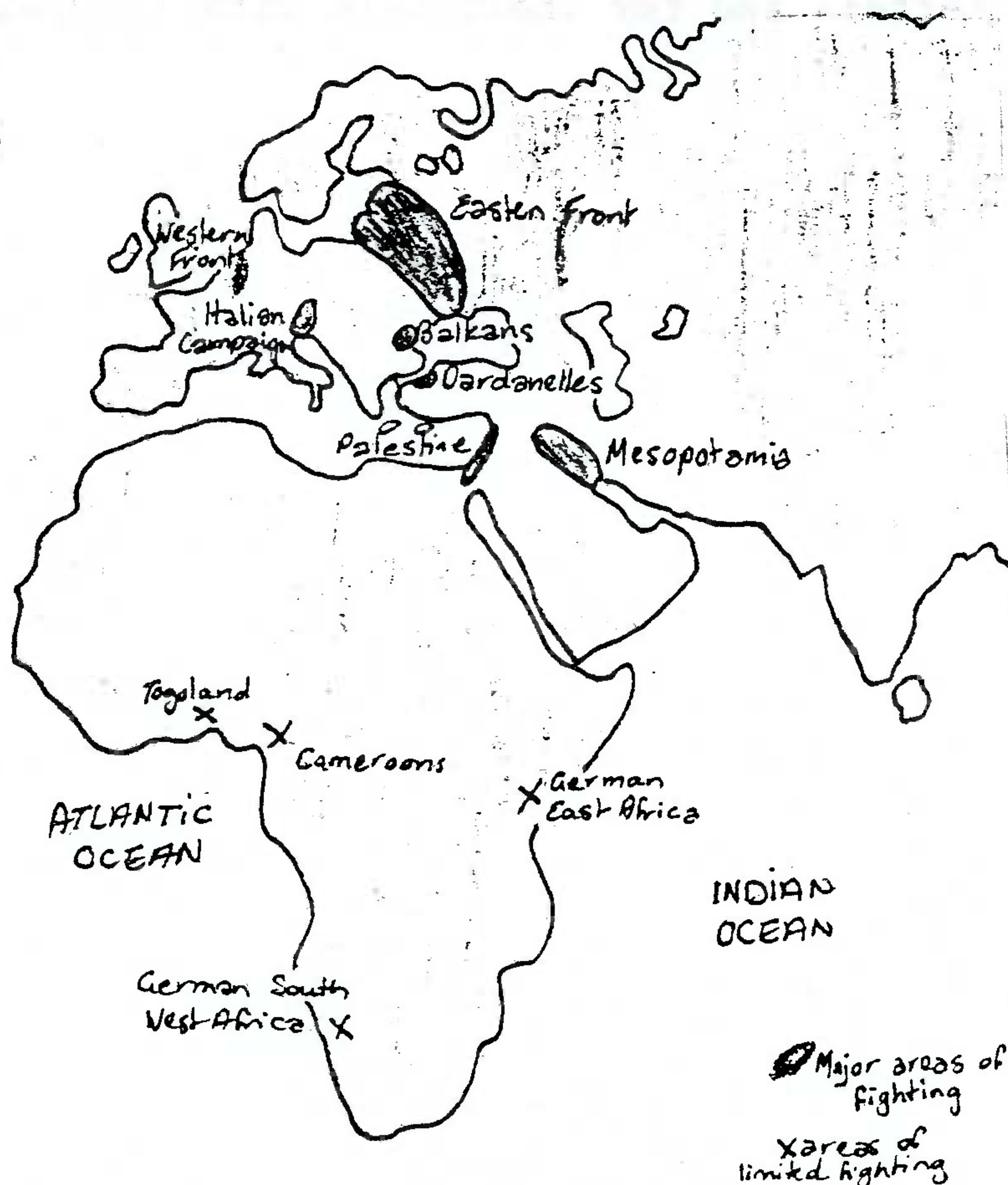
Another cause was the naval race between Britain and Germany. Britain saw Germany's navy as a threat.

The last straw was when, on 28th June 1914, a Serbian nationalist shot and killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. Austria declared war on Serbia. Russia supported Serbia and Germany supported Austria so on 1st August, Germany declared war on Russia and on France on 3rd August. Germany then invaded Belgium. Britain asked Germany to respect Belgium's neutrality and keep its fleet out of the English Channel. When no answer was received, Britain declared war on Germany.

War was declared at 11pm (GMT) on August 4th, 9am (Eastern Australian Time) 5th August 1914. Australia responded patriotically to her mother country with Australians lining up outside recruiting offices.

ANZAC (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps), trained in Egypt and entered the war in April 1915 with the landing at Gallipoli.

THEATRES OF WAR



BIBLIOGRAPHY

MODERN WORLD HISTORY..... A.G.L.SHAW
AUSTRALIA'S YESTERDAYS.....READERS DIGEST
THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE.....LYN MACDONALD
WAR IN THE TRENCHESMATTHEW HOLDEN
WORLD WAR ONE.....GRANADA GUIDES
FAMILY LETTERS TO SISTER TILLIE FROM TOM.
FAMILY LETTERS TO TOM FROM TILLIE.
LETTER FROM AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA.

APPRECIATION

Thanks to MRS. GWEN MEDEW and MR. ERIC LUBCKE for allowing me to use the letters and for their help with information.

GERMANS IN AUSTRALIA DURING THE WAR.

In October 1914, a new law gave the government much greater control over people's lives. More than 3,400 people were fined or sent to prison for crimes such as these:

- spreading rumours that would frighten people
- wearing a soldier's uniform without permission
- selling goods belonging to the Red Cross
- hiding a German
- dyeing army overcoats

Over 3,000 Germans lived in Australia in 1914. In 1915, Germans who were old enough to join the army were put in special camps. Others were carefully watched by police. Many Germans lost their jobs. German schools and churches were closed. Forty-two German places were renamed and a lot of Germans changed their names.

TWO GIPPSLAND SOLDIERS

This is the history of two Gippsland boys' involvement in the war.

THOMAS JOHN KOENIG, 25 years at time of enlistment, was a farmer before he entered the war. He was single and of Presbyterian faith.

His brother, CHARLES DAVID KOENIG, 23 years at time of enlistment, was a labourer by trade. He was also single and Presbyterian by faith.

The brothers both lived at Jumbuk and enlisted at Yinnar on 9th July, 1915. They did their training at Broadmeadows. They were the sons of John Koenig, one of the pioneers of the Jumbuk area.

TOM and CHARLIE KOENIG both enlisted at Yinnar on 9th July, 1915. They then went to Broadmeadows army camp to do their training.

On 9th November, 1915, they left for Egypt on HMAT 1962, "Wandilla".

Tom wrote regularly to his sister, Tillie, who lived in Glenroy, Melbourne. She kept most of his letters. She also wrote regularly and sent parcels to Tom and after Tom was killed, many of the letters she had sent to him were returned to her. It is from these letters that I got most of my information for this part of the assignment.

In each letter, Tillie included a piece of paper and an envelope for Tom to reply. She also often sent a pressed flower to remind him of home.

TILLIE



TWO GIPPSLAND SOLDIERS (cont.)

Because it was necessary to keep the military movements from the enemy, the soldiers were not allowed to write in their letters exactly where they were, so the address would simply be "Egypt" or "France". But from the history of the Australians written after the war, we can guess where Tom and Charlie mainly fought.

It took about one month for the troops to get from Australia to Egypt and once they arrived in Egypt they probably camped at Heliopolis, near Cairo. In Tom's first letter, he tells how he climbed the pyramids and carved his name in the top of one of them. He also mentions that they had porridge for breakfast and plum pudding for dinner on Sundays but they sometimes had that on week-days too. They were issued with tobacco and cigarettes every week.

In a letter from Charlie dated 23/6/1916, he says: "We had a bonzer trip across the water this time. We wasn't sick at all. It is a nice looking place here, there are a few nice views."

Also, a letter from Tom dated 28/6/1916, five days later, says: "We are off the boat now, we had a longer journey on the train, we travelled about a thousand miles. I can tell you we had a bonzer time. I think this is the prettiest place I ever seen and all the French people along the... gave us a good cheer. I think they think a lot of the Australians."

These letters show that they have moved from Egypt to France.

A FIELD POST CARD:

The address only to be written on this side. If anything else is added, the post card will be destroyed.

A.F.A. 2012.
Written No. 6248.

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

I am quite well.

~~I have been admitted into hospital~~
{ sick } and am going on well.
{ wounded } and hope to be discharged soon.

I am being sent down to the base.

I have received your { letter dated _____ }
{ telegram " _____ }
{ parcel " _____ }

Letter follows at first opportunity.

I have received no letter from you
{ - lately. }
{ - for a long time. }

Signature }
only. }

Date _____

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

FIELD SERVICE
POST CARD
Miss Willie Spencer
Hilberton & Oswald St
Glennary
Victoria
Australia

TWO GIPPSLAND SOLDIERS (cont).

In the same letter Tom also says: "It will not be long before we are in the firing line now as we can hear the big guns and on a clear night you can see them firing, so don't expect letters very often now."

In July 1916 Tom wrote that they had shifted up into the firing line, about a thousand yards from the front line. Tom was called away to unload a boat of coal, which took two days. The coal was probably used for the trains which carried guns, troops and supplies to the front.

In July Tom was wounded and sent to hospital in England. By August he was well again and was discharged from hospital. He had 14 days leave in London. He wrote to Tillie: "I never want to see the trenches in France again but I suppose I will be in them long before you get this letter. I think they will send us back as soon as we are fit."

While Tom was in London he wrote: "I don't think it will be long before it is all finished. There is very good news over here, they all say it will be over before Christmas."

In 1914 and 1915 people were saying the same thing - that the war would be over before Christmas but by 1917 most people had given up hope that the war would be over soon.

In August Tom was back in France. He wrote: "We are now back in the trenches and the first thing I got this morning was a big bomb landed about ten yards away from me but my luck was in, it didn't burst - if it had I don't think I would be alive now, about half the shells the Germans send over don't burst."

TRENCHES were built more than six feet deep, with ledges for soldiers to stand on to fire over the top. Each trench was dug in a zig-zag fashion - this prevented the enemy from being able to fire down the whole length of the trench system. Blind alleys were constructed to confuse the enemy in case of a successful German ~~adv~~ advance.

The smell was always horrible - rotting bodies, sweat, cordite, dank earth and the sickly disinfectant mixed with each other.

In December 1916 Tom talks about the terrible mud, saying: "Well Tillie my dear we are having terrible wet and cold weather lately, it is either rain or snow every day so you can guess what the mud is like. Well one of our mates got stuck the other night coming out of the trenches and it took over an hour to get him out. We all have big high top rubber boots when we are in the line, if we didn't I don't think we could stand as we would always have wet feet."

One other soldier writes, in "They Called It Passchendaele" - "He was absolutely up to his arms in it (mud) and he'd been there for four days and nights ever since the last attack - and he was still alive, clinging on to the root of a tree in the side of this shell hole full of liquid mud.... the more they pulled the more they sank in themselves. Eventually, from somewhere or other, they got a rope, got it under his armpits and were just fixing up a derrick to see if they could hoist him out of it when we had to move on, because there was trouble up front. All we could do was leave a man behind to look after him. It was another twenty-four hours before he was rescued."

Many men were injured and lost arms and legs because of the mud. If it wasn't for the delays caused by the mud they may have been able to save the limbs.

TWO GIPPSLAND SOLDIERS (cont).

Tom also wrote about the Germans surrendering. He says:
 "Well Tillie dear, the other night when we were in the front line one of the fritys (Fritz) men came over to our trench and gave himself up, he couldn't stand it any longer. When we got him in our trench he said thank God he was so pleased to get away from his own lines." He also says that it must have been hard to give themselves up but that there had been a good few come over.

In January 1917, Charlie was in London on 10 days leave. Tom said he was very lucky because they had just moved into the front line.

In April 1917 Tom wrote that he was in hospital but he was o.k. but he didn't say whether he was wounded or ill. There were a lot of illnesses around such as dysentery, pneumonia and trench fever.

In the letter dated June 1917 Tom mentions writing to the mother of a boy who was killed in March when they took Bapaume. He wrote; "I can tell you Tillie we were in a very nasty corner when the boy got killed. I would not have given much for our chance of getting out of it at the time but here we are still going strong." From this letter I could guess that Tom may have been injured at the same time as the boy was killed because he was in hospital only a short time after.

Some time between January and July Charlie had been badly injured and Tom said he had got a letter from Charlie saying "he had just landed in England and he said his both legs were heeled up but the left was not quite strong enough to walk on yet, still got to keep the splints on. I don't think it will be long before you will have him back home with you once more and I bet he will not be sorry when he sees old Australia again."

Tom's last letter dated August 5th 1917 says: "We had a long train ride a few days ago and I can tell you we enjoyed it very much and I must say the people are much nicer to us than they were in the other place."

From what we know about the Australians' involvement in France, Tom was probably at the Somme before his train ride. The Australians were brought into the Ypres area of Belgium to try to capture Passchendaele.

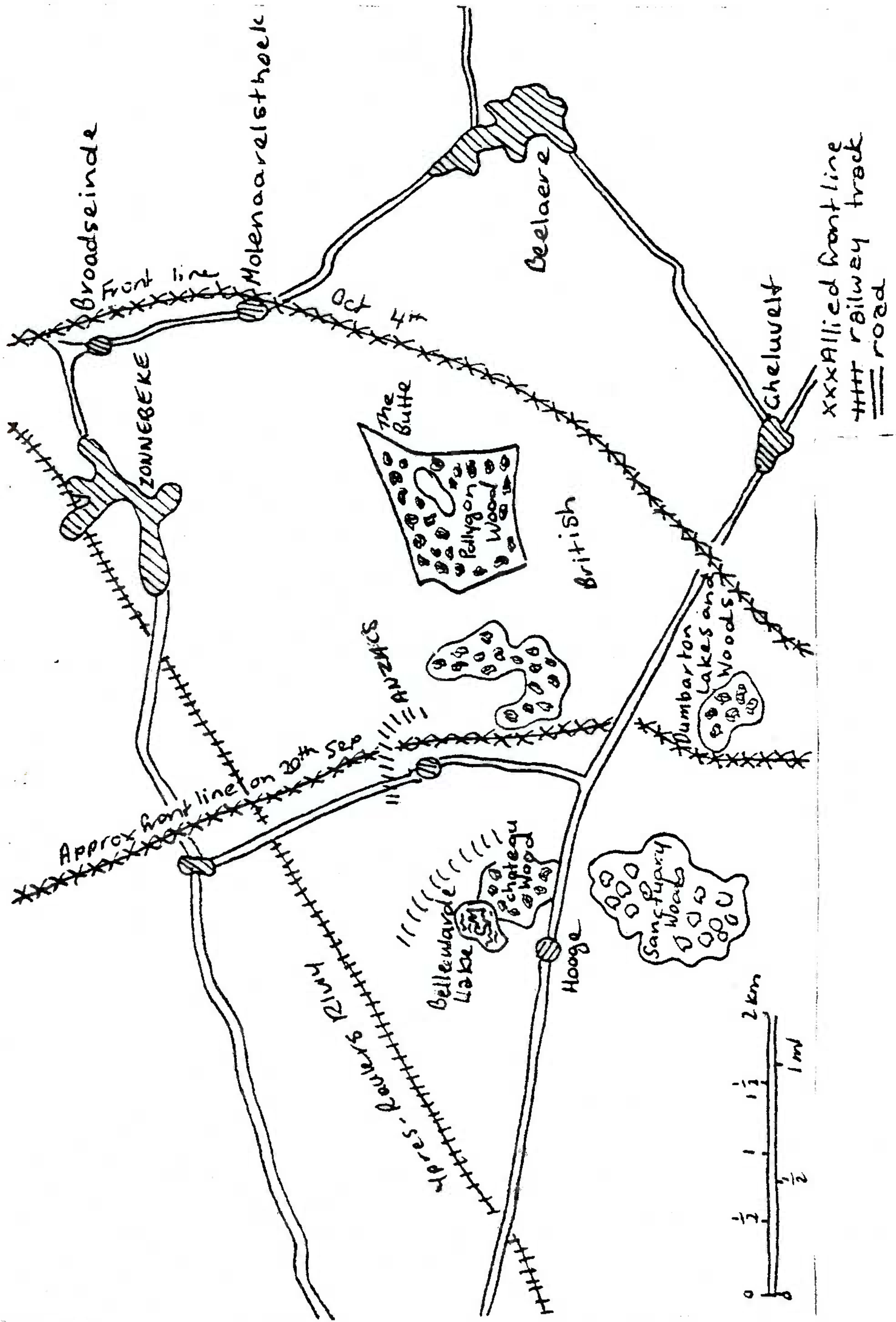
About a month later, on 26th September 1917, Tom was killed in the battle of Polygon Wood.

We don't know exactly how Tom was killed because there two conflicting stories about his death. ~~XXXX~~

The first was a Red Cross report sent to Tillie saying that he had been killed by a shell. The second is from a Red Cross file in the Australian War Memorial saying: "A Red Cross file records that Thomas (Tom) Koenig was shot in the head by a sniper in Polygon Wood. He had been wounded before and was about 5'5" or 5'7" tall."

TWO GIPPSLAND SOLDIERS (cont).

THE POLYGON WOOD AREA - FLANDERS.



INFORMATION BUREAU.

TELEPHONE
CENTRAL 4462.

TELEGRAPH AND
CABLE ADDRESS
"REDGIB, MELBOURNE."

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED
TO THE "HON. SECRETARY."



COLONIAL MUTUAL CHAMBERS,
(2ND FLOOR)
60 MARKET STREET,

Melbourne, 5th April 1917

VICTORIAN DIVISION.

Miss T. Koenig,
Hilton,
Glenroy.

Dear Madam,

re Pte. T. J. Koenig No. 906 51st Battalion.

Sgt. E. J. Gothard, No. 858, a returned man, private address - 54 Arthur Street, Fairfield, on the 28th March made the following statement in regard to the above named soldier who was killed in Action on the 26th September, 1917.

"I knew Casualty. He was a man about 5'9", fair, about 25 years of age, known as "Tom". Casualty was sitting in an out-post station on the Sunken Road, Beaumetz. A shell exploded near Casualty mortally wounding him. He died on reaching the Advanced Dressing Station. Pte. Bolitho was killed by the same shell. I had charge of the out-post station. I was 2 yds. from him at the time of his death. His chief wounds were about the body. I do not know where he was buried.

On receipt of further reports we will promptly advise you.

Yours faithfully,

[Handwritten Signature]
Hon. Secretary.

E.A./A.B.

TWO GIPPSLAND SOLDIERS (cont).

It seems Tom's family didn't find out about his death until about a month after he was killed because Tillie was still writing to him at the end of October.

Early in October, Tillie wrote:

Tom: Dear I hope you were
not in that awful battle
at Flanders I believe it
was terrible but my Dear
Brother we all think that
is where you are now
let us hope & pray that
God takes care of you
& bring you safely through
it all.

At the end of October she sent him a Christmas card.



Like the Boomerang
May You Come Back

Greetings from

To My
Dear
Brother on
Active Service

We're been parted such a long
And I'm longing, brother mine,
Just to chop your hand so dear,
And to know that you are near

Leamington

1918

TWO GIPPSLAND SOLDIERS (cont).

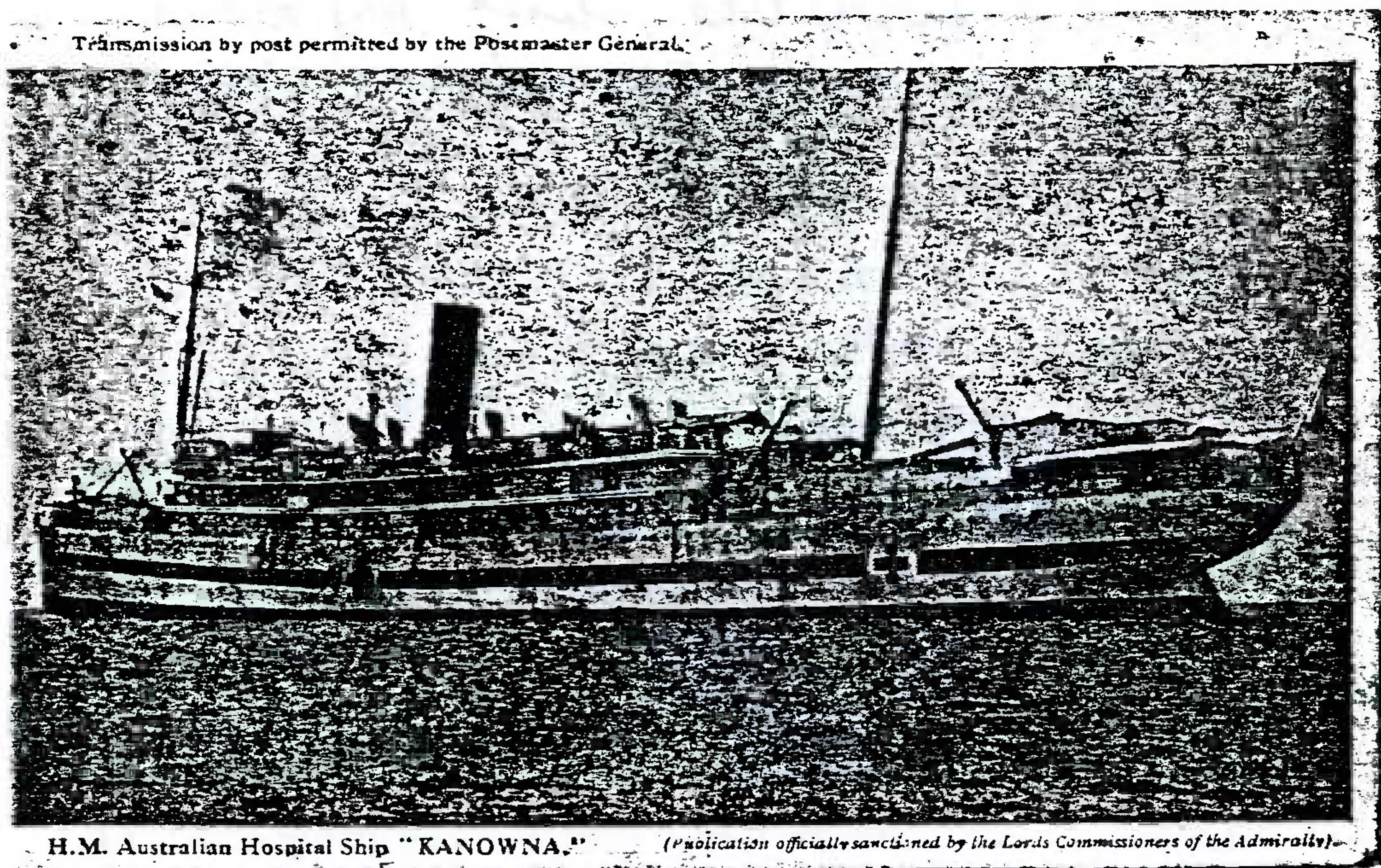
Charlie returned home to Australia in early 1918 with an artificial leg.

A lot of returned soldiers were trained in different fields as part of their rehabilitation. Charlie was trained as a bootmaker and later set up a shop in Commercial Rd. Morwell

On the Western Front, when war ended in 1918, both sides had lost millions of men killed or wounded. For all that loss, the greatest depth of ground taken was a mere three and a half miles.

.....

THE HOSPITAL SHIP ON WHICH CHARLIE PROBABLY RETURNED



CHARLIE OUTSIDE HIS SHOP
COMMERCIAL RD.
MORWELL

R.H.S.V.

HISTORY NEWS

No. 88 JUNE 1988

EXCURSIONS

Winchelsea.-We had a beautiful sunny day for this excursion. We travelled around through Williamstown and Altona before joining the Princes Highway at Laverton. We were entertained for morning tea by the Winchelsea & District Historical Society, and went out to the site of the Winchelsea Plains State School out on the Cressy Road where Mrs. Cuthill was the Head Teacher before her marriage. We heard some anecdotes on primary education in small country schools over fifty years ago.

We then entered the Mount Hesse station where Mr. Peter Kininmonth and his wife Phyllis have 30,000 sheep including a flock of the original Saxon merinos as imported by John Macarthur and others in the early days of the colony.

After lunch at Mount Hesse, we travelled around through Inverleigh to Barwon park, the Austin mansion at Winchelsea, where we made an inspection of this historic property and enjoyed afternoon tea.

Our thanks are due to our hosts, the Winchelsea & District Historical Society for their organization and to Mr. and Mrs. Kininmonth for their courtesy in permitting us to make an escorted tour of their extensive property where Mr. Kininmonth denies that they are living in "luxury and ease".

Melbourne Buildings by Night.-As a departure from our normal practice this tour on Thursday 23 June will start with a magic lantern and slide show at the Royal Mint at 6:30 p.m. This will be followed by a guided tour in a bus of the less well known historic buildings in Melbourne. The total cost will be \$7.00 which is payable to the Director with your nomination not later than 17 June.

Bluestone and Living Museum of the West.-This tour will be arranged with the help of the Living Museum of the West. It will start at 9 p.m. from Market Street on Sunday 24 July and will look at the significance of bluestone in the western suburbs. Further details will appear in the next **History News**.

Meat Market, Collingwood and Fitzroy.-This tour of areas close to the City centre may be of particular interest to country societies. Special arrangements will be made for these to participate if any member society is interested and lets the Director know. The tour will start at the Meat Market at 10 p.m. on Sunday, 28 August with a guided tour of the Market. This will be followed by a period for browsing in the market-refreshments available on payment-until a coach collects the party at Blackwood Street at 11:30 for the short journey to Collingwood where the Collingwood Historical Society will provide a programme. Lunch (BYO) will be taken about 12:30 and the group will move on to the Fitzroy Historical Society in the afternoon. The programme will include an hour's walking tour, a visit to an historic bakery and a tour of the refurbished Fitzroy Town Hall. Tea will be provided in the Fitzroy Library. The cost will be \$12 which should be paid to the Director with your nomination by 19 August.

Jells Park and Dandenong.-A visit to this area is planned for September. Details will appear in a later issue of **History News**.

Heidelberg.-It is now some year since we held an excursion to Heidelberg, but the Heidelberg Historical Society will be our hosts for a visit in October, full details of which will appear in later issues of **History News**.

1988 Bi-Centenary YearMorwell and District

Correction to May edition of Bi-Centenary notes. The 24th April this year would be Mrs Olver's 60th wedding not her 50th. They were married on 24/4/28.

N.B. Some of our members are working on their memoirs but they are not quite ready for publication yet. In the meantime some notes here are again gathered mostly from "Steamhorse to Power".

1948 - 1958 - The Japanese surrendered in August 1945 but things here only changed gradually at first. It took time to bring the men and women back from overseas service and P.O.W. camps. Food rationing continued until 1949 and organizations helped in the food situation overseas as well as working for children, widows and others at home affected by the war.

Planning for the S.E.C. project in Morwell began in 1947-48 and field work began but was halted in 1951 because of a financial recession. In 1954 work was resumed and by 1956 winning of coal from Morwell Open Cut began and the Gas and Fuel Co-op was producing gas from briquettes in Morwell.

Morwell received many migrants during this period. A survey in 1954-55 revealed that 48% of these were from England and Scotland. The remainder were from Holland, Malta, Germany, Latvia, Ireland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Estonia, Hungary, Spain and Denmark.

All this led to an acute housing shortage, building of hostels, the growth of the business section, community services, recreational resources and transport, home comforts etc. But the biggest advances took place in the area of mass communication. Television was here in 1956 in time for the Olympics.

One of the most important services needed was the educational facilities to cope with the post-war increase of children here. Six new schools were opened during the fifties:-

1. 1951 - Collins St.
2. 1954 - Tobruk St.

1988 Bi-Centenary Year (Contd)

3. 1956 - Morwell High School
4. 1957 - Tobruk St.
5. 1959 - Morwell Technical School
6. 1954 - St Vincent's opened a temporary school (a permanent building was erected in 1957)

This decade also saw a number of new church buildings to cope with the growing congregations.

In 1952 diesel fuel took over trams - speeding up the time-table.

Although just skimming the surface of events of this decade these notes are sufficient to show how Morwell changed from a quiet rural based town to a commercial industrial centre.

SHIRE OF MORWELL.

481

Contractor George Bellinopley

For Works of Formation of Culvert's Walsh R^a Kanaoan

Contract No. 207

Amount of Contract £ 61 : :

Deposit Lodged for Due Fulfilment of Contract £ 3 : :

Total £ 64 : :

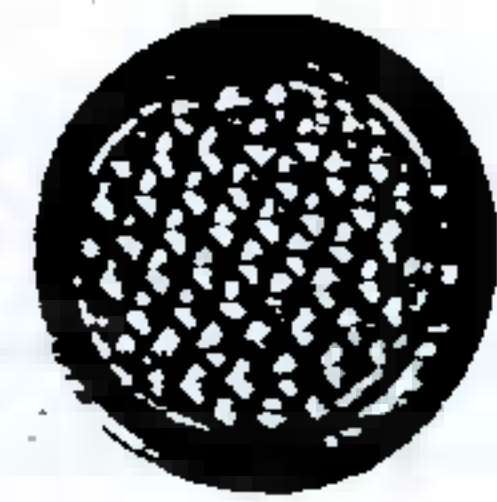
This Contract made this 13th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and six

Between George Bellinopley of Morwell in the State of Victoria Contractor of the first part and the President Councillors and Ratepayers of the SHIRE OF MORWELL of the second part hereinafter and in the Specifications and Conditions of Contract called respectively the Contractor and the Council.

Witnesseth that the Contractor for himself his heirs executors and administrators covenants with the Council to Execute and Perform the Several Works and Provisions and supply all material and Labour and everything of every kind respectively named shown described and referred to in the Plans Specifications Conditions of Contract Schedule of Quantities and Rates hereto respectively annexed to be executed and supplied by and on the part of the Contractor in conformity with the said Plans and Specifications and under and subject to the Conditions of Contract also hereto annexed at the Rates set out in the said Schedule of Quantities and Rates and that the said Contractor for himself his heirs executors and administrators hereby covenants with the said Council and the Council hereby covenants with the said Contractor to perform observe and fulfil all and singular the Conditions Stipulations and Requisitions expressed and contained in or to be inferred from the said Plans Specifications and Conditions hereunto annexed together with the Tender of the said Contractor and Schedule of Quantities and Prices upon which such tender was based or calculated and by and on the part of the Contractor and the Council respectively to be performed observed and fulfilled.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered by the above-named George Bellinopley in the presence of

Geo Bellinopley



Contractor.

Thomas Tucker

Witness.

The Common Seal of the said Council was hereto affixed in the presence of the undersigned two Members of the said Council on the day hereinbefore named—

John Munn President.

George Bellinopley Councillor.

stated the object of the meeting, and that although there was nothing to that laid down either by the Education Act or the Board's regulations, it was desirable to have the different denominations represented as far as practicable. It appeared that four resignations had been received by the committee—namely, those of Messrs. Thompson, Hughes, Mathews, and Dunphy, and the business of the meeting would be to nominate four gentlemen to fill their places. The following nominations were then made:—Messrs. Armstrong (Wesleyan), Travis (Church of England), Bryce (Presbyterian), and Dalton and Kehns (Roman Catholics). On a show of hands being taken, the election was declared to have fallen on the first four named. A vote of thanks to D. T. Hughes, Esq., for the able manner in which he fulfilled the duties of correspondent

school was accomplished. At the close of the meeting was held—present, Messrs. Lambott (chairman), Mackenzie, Harrison, Kennedy, Travis, Dalton, and Bryce. Mr. Travis was appointed correspondent, and instructed to write to the Board to communicate the names of the new members of committee. As some misapprehension exists as to the exact position of school matters, it may not be out of place to state that the school was conditionally put on the list for aid in April last, and on receipt of the returns, showing that the regulations had been complied with, was fully recognised in July. The preliminary work has, therefore, been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, and unless the committee purpose proceeding with the erection of a building, their labors will, for the present, be very light.

An enterprising speculator, with a payable reef in a position not very accessible to pack-horses, is in treaty for the importation of a gang of Chinese, to convey his quartz over the mountains to the machine. If he succeeds in carrying out his idea, the sight will be rather a novel one; but with John's known propensities, a sharp eye will have to be kept on him during the transit, if the stone contain many rich specimens.

An accident occurred on Wednesday to a miner, named Burgess, living at Bull Town. While undermining the face of a bank claim, the upper portion gave way sooner than was expected, and a large mass of stone falling on his leg, caused a compound fracture. The poor fellow lay in a state of great suffering for two days before medical assistance could be procured to set the broken limb; but on the case becoming known, the amount to pay the surgeon's fee was raised in a few minutes.

Among the many reefs in this district now undergoing the process of being tested is the Golden Promise, situated on the Dividing Range, between the Crooked and Wongungarra Rivers, at the head of Jones's Creek. The discoverers, Messrs. Macdonald, of the Glengarry, have been aware of its existence for some months, but it is only within the last few weeks that any systematic plan for proving it has been adopted. The reef, as compared with others about here, is indeed a giant, being an average width of about eight feet, and has been traced throughout the prospecting claim. It is unfavourable principally near the back, but the whole of the stone is richly impregnated with various metals, amongst which the galena plays a conspicuous part. The prospectors are now sinking a vertical shaft, cutting the reef diagonally; this they purpose carrying to a depth of fifty feet, when a drive will be put in to strike the reef at that level. So promising are the indications, that the shareholders are sanguine of being the possessors of a property which will eventually give a good account of itself.

Ten tons from the Rose of Australia, crushed at the Globe machine, yielded at the same rate as the last stone from same claim—namely, 11 dwt per ton. Of this yield 1½ dwt per ton was saved by Nevins's Friction Amalgamator, after the tailings had passed over the ordinary stationary tables.

ing to every one interested in the advancement of North Gippsland to know that the entrance of the Lakes is improving fast, and that in the course of fortnight the steamer Murray will be laid on the direct route.

The weather last week was somewhat broken, with wet. The wheat crop in this district looks well. Ploughing and sowing for oats is still the order of the day amongst farmers. There is a good demand for ploughs, there being somewhat of a scarcity in this quarter. In the last educational report issued by the Board of Education, it was stated that the vote for £80 for Bairnsdale Common School had lapsed, owing to the school trustees here not having applied for it. Query: What have the school trustees done with the £80 which they must have had in hand when they applied for the above grant? as no schoolroom has so far been erected here, and public opinion is far from being satisfied

THE GIPPSLAND CHRONICLE, SEPT. 5 1866

THE MOREWELL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

1st September, 1866.

The fine weather of the past fortnight has had a beneficial effect upon the state of the roads—a fact of which you will have become aware, from the greater regularity which now prevails in the delivery of the mails at Sale. The public may, however, congratulate themselves that they have not experienced more inconvenience than they have done during the late floods, and that they have not done so is in a great measure to be ascribed to the energy and perseverance of the drivers along the line, for their indefatigable exertions to convey the mail to its destination; at the same time, it is unquestionably wrong that the whole responsibility of the safe conveyance of the mails should rest upon their shoulders. The coaches during the winter season are often without passengers, and consequently, in the event of an accident, the mails have to be left in charge of themselves, while the driver proceeds to the nearest station to procure assistance. To obviate such difficulties, a guard ought to accompany the mail, not only to protect them, but to render aid to the driver in cases of emergency; for, although at the present time bushranging is happily unknown in Gippsland, no one can foretell how soon that interesting specimen of the genus homo may appear amongst us. It is to be hoped that the Government will provide for such a contingency in the next contracts, to be issued for the ensuing year. The time for registration for the franchise has passed; it is, therefore, useless now to grumble how the Act, passed by a Ministry decidedly opposed to the mining interests, has been administered. Still I must remark that greater facilities ought to have been provided for those who had neither the time or money to spare to travel miles to acquire it. I am aware of many who have been disfranchised in consequence. It will be our own and our member's fault if the attention of the Government is not called to the subject previous to the next registration.

The road clearing party, under the charge of Mr. Maxwell, have now arrived within two miles of this place. The new track will, if understood, be a circuitous route, to avoid the pinch at the Haunted Hill. It is much to be regretted that the Government do not cut drains alongside the track as it is cleared, as I have it from good authority that the ground is of that nature that drainage only is required to render the road passable at any time. Mr. Pearson has had practical experience this winter of the state of the roads; let us hope he will not forget it when Parliament meets and the Estimates are before the House.

A most lamentable accident occurred last night to Mr. Kearney, private tutor to J. Turnbull, Esq., who was killed by a fall from his horse about half a mile from Flinn's Creek. He was a B.A. of Dublin College, and universally respected.

Mr. B. Taylor lost a valuable horse here last week, by a surfeit of wheat.

AVON SHIRE COUNCIL

The usual meeting of the Avon Shire Council was held in the Chamber on Monday, the 4th instant.

next Jan., when general works would be progressing; that, by the latter end of the present month, the Council expected to receive £800 from the Government, and that they would also have £150 from the second moiety of rates by the end of September, when the Council hoped to have a credit to their account.

The Surveyor reported that the approaches to La Trobe bridge were considerably below the flooring of the bridge and required immediate repair. That the main road through Nuntin forest was very bad order, and that it would be advisable to employ two men to have the holes and ruts filled short fine weather set in. It would also be requisite to employ one man on the Maffra road, on the portion lately formed. He also stated that he had been informed by Mr. Farman that he intended taking legal proceedings against the Avon Shire Council, in reference to his appointment as Clerk of works contract in the Punt-lane, entered into by Mr. C. Cox, contractor.

Letter from Mrs. A. Mira, complaining of a nuisance existing close to her house in the public street, in the shape of a dead dog, creating an offensive smell. She had spoken to Constable Fee about it, but he seemed to think that it could not be removed by him until he had found an owner. If her husband had been at home, she would have had it removed without troubling any one. The nuisance had since been removed.

Letter from Mr. Dominick M. Mallan, stating that as the Lakes were now open, he must take advantage of their proposition to give them a month's notice, as required by law, to cancel their agreement, inasmuch as the toll would scarcely pay anything for the next three months, so that if they intended giving him notice before January or February, they would please advertise for fresh tenders this month. As this was the proposition of the Board, they could not blame him for taking advantage of it. He would have carried on the lease had it been accepted six months, inasmuch as he would then be eligible to tender again; in fact, he always considered himself bound to carry out the lease whether paying or not. The notice of resignation was accepted, and the Secretary instructed to advertise for fresh tenders.

Letter from Mr. Lloyd, on behalf of the inhabitants of Stratford, asking for the use of the Shire Chamber for holding a meeting this evening with reference to the opening of the Lakes. Granted.

Letter from Mr. H. Butler, solicitor for the Council, stating for their information that the year of the collection of rates, referred to in the 2nd section of the Local Government Act, commences on the 1st of January. That was decided in the Supreme Court in July last, in a case of appeal against the Mayor, &c., of Tarnagulla; and the wording of the section referring to rates in the Municipal Corporations Act is the same as the section before referred to of the Local Government Act.

A letter was read from Mr. Anderson, in which he complained of the deduction made by the Council in his account of the item £3 12s 6d for horse hire, and stated that such was not the usual practice. That after paying half to Mr. Pettit he had very little left for himself. The Council instructed the Secretary to write and state that they did not consider they were entitled to pay more than the usual 5 per cent commission.

A letter was read from Mr. Butler, solicitor for the Council, enclosing a summons from Mr. Farman in connection with his appointment as clerk of works at the Punt-lane. Mr. Butler, who was present, was instructed to act in conjunction with Mr. Butler, solicitor for Sale Borough Council, in defending the action.

Messrs. Dennis and Mathieson presented an account for £26 0s 11d, and showed that they took a contract at too low a figure, as the material it cost £24 11s. The Surveyor said the work was done according to specification. It was resolved that as soon as the surveyor was satisfied that the work was completed the amount would be paid.

The following additional accounts were ordered to be paid:—

Election expenses	£15 12
Mr. Butler, solicitor	14 6
Cleaning offices	1 0
Gippsland Times	8 11

SHIRE OF MORWELL, VICTORIA.

TENDER.

CONTRACT No. 207

To the President and Councillors of the Shire of Morwell,

I hereby propose to execute the whole of the works set forth in the Drawings and Specifications for

Forming & culvert on Walshees road

and agreeably to the specified conditions, for the bulk sum of _____

_____ also subjoin, by way of schedule _____ estimate in detail* for the same, and agree to have all additions to or deductions from the specified works valued at the respective prices opposite the various descriptions of work.

Signature of Contractor

Geo Billingsley

Primary Deposit, £ : : _____

Post Address _____

Final Deposit, 5 per cent., £ : : _____

Date _____

SCHEDULE ABOVE ALLUDED TO:—

QUANTITIES.		DESCRIPTION OF WORK.	PRICE.	AMOUNT.
53 1	chs 9 12	of formation as specified O. W. Culvert completed	759	
23	9	— — — — — maintaining one month	2	

£ 101

WORLD WAR DRUM



THOMAS KOENIG

96 11
96 11
96 11



CHARLES KOENIG

96 11
96 11
96 11