

CLYDE GEORGE COUCH

Clyde was born on 18/10/1898 at Heyfield. He was one of three brother who enlisted In WW1. Their father, **Joseph John**, also tried to enlist at the age of 44 years but after a month or so was discharged as medically unfit (although “of good character”).

The others who enlisted were: **Robert Alexander** who was born in 1894 in Malvern and embarked on 4 April 1916 and proceeded to France in November that year. He was severely injured in the left shoulder by a gunshot wound and returned to Australia where he was discharged on 4 July 1918. He was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal. He died in Hamilton in 1976 aged 81.

William Joseph who embarked from Australia on 16 December and was KIA on 4 October 1917 in Passchendale, Belguim and his grave is in the Tyne Cot British Cemetery in Belguim.

CLYDE GEORGE COUCH was born on 18 October 1898, the middle son of Joseph John and Annie (nee Ashton) Couch.

Service Number	2659
Enlisted	31 August 1916 as a Private aged 19
Embarked	2 October 1916 on the HMAT A71 <i>Nestor</i>
Unit on Enlistment	60 th Battalion, 6 th Reinforcement
Returned to Australia	30 January 1918

Clyde was a 19 year old labourer when he enlisted. When he disembarked at Plymouth he was hospitalised with Mumps and a month after discharge from hospital, he went to France with the 60th Battalion in March 1917. In September 1917 he was wounded in action at the Battle of Polygon Wood, Belguim, and sent back to England with a severely lacerated arm. He was discharged from hospital and stayed in England until he returned to Australia, arriving on 21 March 1918 and discharged with the disability in his left shoulder and arm.

According to his daughter, Lois, her father seldom talked about the war and when asked what it was like, responded that it was nothing like in the films. His philosophy, when commenting on someone expressing anti-war sentiments, was that he and his comrades had fought so that we were free to express an opinion freely without fear of negative retaliation.

During WW2 Clyde (V365345) enlisted and served as a member of the VDC – Volunteer Defence Corps. Clyde married Jessie Rimington on 6 June 1931 at St Stephen’s Anglican Church in Richmond and had 3 children: Lois (22/5/35); Joy (3/8/38); Ian 7/12/43). Jessie was the NOK at WW2 enlistment.

He was a conscientious member of The Traralgon RSL and the Traralgon Band, supporting all their efforts. He attended all ANZAC services including Dawn Services, even when, in 1958 he would have been in severe pain (unknown to the family) as he passed away on 3 November 1958

Lois says her father was a kind and gentle person, yet strong at the same time. He never mentioned or complained of his shoulder injury, nor let it impede his work or activities. His school friends from Gormandale have remarked in later life, that he was always kind and thoughtful at school just as he was in adult life.

After the war he worked as a Butter maker at the Traralgon Butter factory; Grey Street School Cleaner; SEC Franklin Street cleaner .



Clyde George Couch



Clyde George Couch in his band uniform

Clyde marrying Jessie Rimington 1931



Poem written by Annie Couch

Published: Gippsland Farmers Journal 1922
In memory of William Joseph Couch KIA

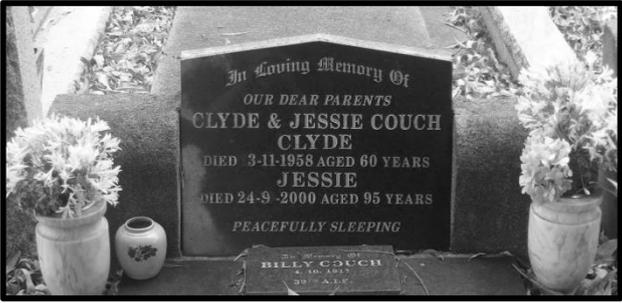
Somewhere in France, dear Willie is sleeping
His grave I will never see.
Will some kind hand in that far off land
Plant a few flowers for me?
How sadly I've missed him for five long years
I still picture his face through a mist of tears.



The Victory Medal



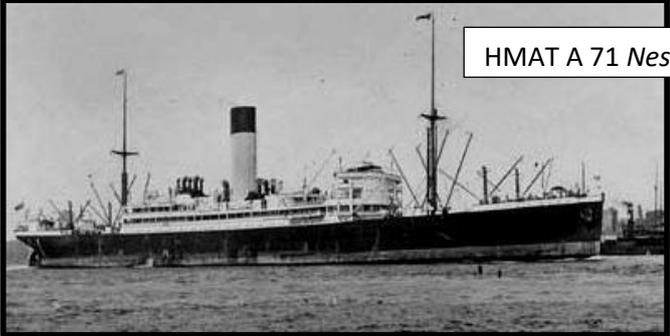
The British War Medal



Gippsland Memorial park
GRAVE: WM-A004



Joseph James Couch



HMAT A 71 Nestor

Robert Couch (standing)
William Couch (sitting)



Robert Alexander Couch



HMAT A14 Euripides

