

ANZAC DAY 2025

A small but stalwart band travelled from around our county to commemorate ANZAC Day at the Dominions Plot in Cambridge City Cemetery at dawn this morning, 25th April. They were unexpectedly joined by Matt, a young Australian from Sydney who is about to start studies at the University. He was warmly welcomed and we listened as he told us that he had been in Europe for two months and had visited many of the battlefields where ANZACs had served. He had desperately searched for somewhere local to commemorate the day, before finding our reports on our Facebook site.

At 05.40, after a welcome and introduction from Emrys our Branch Chair, Stuart Ainsworth, a recent and welcome addition to our committee, read from the Roll of Honour, briefly detailing those ANZACs commemorated in the Cemetery.



There followed The Last Post, and two minutes silence and Reveille followed by the anthem, "Advance Australia Fair".

We concluded our service with a few words from Emrys to sum up, and Stuart who provided details of his own ancestors Gallipoli experience.



Then we assembled in the car park to enjoy mugs of steaming tea, soaked up with ANZAC biscuits produced by Matt & Ann Colley, and John England, to add a real ANZAC element. A big thank you to them, those biscuits added to the occasion. Inevitably a great social chat followed, everyone clearly enjoying themselves.

Another memorable commemoration event for our branch, made special by Matts presence as an Australian. He seemed genuinely touched and appreciative, and expressed a keen interest in our branch. We very much hope that he keeps in touch, and we wish him well with his studies here.



I had spoken with the local CWGC gardeners about our event a few weeks previous, inviting them along. Unfortunately they were unable too, however, they had clearly made every effort to maintain the high standards they set, to include colour on the day. Our sincere thanks to them all for their constant endeavours.

By 07.15 we had departed and were back on the road.

Further ANZAC casualties were visited during the morning to include Pte THOMAS at Huntingdon, Sgt Ronald Alister RANKIN at St Neots, Nurse Kathleen Mary HOLLIS at St Neots, an Honorary New Zealander who had cared for New Zealands troops at hospital in the UK.

Photographs of their memorials are below.



At 14.30, more branch members attended the annual service at Peterboroughs Broadway Cemetery, by the grave of Sgt Thomas HUNTER, "The Lonely ANZAC". Organised by our friends of the Peterborough Branch of the Royal British Legion and attended by the Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Brigadier Tim Seal, TA, ADC, DL, VR & Peterboroughs Mayor, Councillor Marco Cereste. The service was conducted by The Revd. Canon George Rogers and included contributions from students at Jack Hunt Academy accompanied by their teacher Dr Joanna Younge. It was reassuring to see the students in attendance, to hear of their research and witness their respectful attitudes.





The last ANZAC biscuit.....

Emrys Jones

Branch Chair

STOP PRESS: Two of our Cambridge members, regulars at ANZAC commemorations, were absent this year. However, I had just finished writing this when I heard from Brent, in Poland. He had not forgotten the day, and had found two ANZACs to visit at Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery. Pte 1164 P. KELLY, 53rd Bn, Australian Infantry & M. LOMESNEY who served as Pte 6287 M. McBARRON, 13th Bn, Australian Infantry who had died as Prisoners Of War. Thank you Brent.





“We Will Remember Them”