

# *The Corey Papers*

*As collected by Alex Reynolds  
and presented by Bill Smith*



*RSL  
Woden Valley Sub-Branch*

# The Corey Papers

**Records Collected by Alex Reynolds**



## *Preface*

The central body of this work is a collection of records assembled by Alex Reynolds and donated to the Woden Valley RSL by his family following his death in May 2020.

It was always his intention to publish them and Alex prepared some passages for inclusion. As will be seen, he was gathering the papers under the research subject title:

**2134 Corporal**

**Ernest Albert Corey**

**Military Medal and 3 Bars**

Rather than anticipate his final presentation, the collection is included here unchanged to form the central theme of this book. It is a tribute to both Colonel Alex Reynolds RAA and to the man he wished to honour, Corporal Ernest Corey MM\*\*\*.

May this book serve to remind us all of two outstanding members of the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch.

***Bill Smith OAM MSM***

December 2020

*The previous illustration was derived from a drawing by Derry artist David Campbell depicting the June 1917 Battle of Messines.*

# *The Corey Papers*

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Before he passed away, Alex Reynolds intended to publish his work to commemorate the remarkable life of WWI hero Ernest Corey. Rather than attempt to suggest how Alex intended to present the story, this publication places a focus on Alex as an outstanding officer and gentleman while also featuring Ernie, a forgotten national hero. It commemorates the lives of two men, the contemporary researcher and his much earlier subject.

Alex was heavily involved in the final details of fitting out and naming “*The Corey Room*” at the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch but passed away unexpectedly before the planned launch date. These papers and a replica set of Corey’s medals were to be presented by Alex as a gift to Woden Valley RSL. This publication is an attempt to highlight his contribution towards the Corey Room project.

“*The Corey Papers*” presents intertwined stories of both men in three parts:

***Part One*** - A background to the work and motivation that set Alex on his path to create greater visibility to our local hero, Ernest Albert Corey.

***Part Two*** - Alex’s collection of papers with final assembly completed by his family with the help of his project helpmate, Margaret. This was not an attempt to finalise the book, but to make it available for continued research as a tribute to Alex.

***Part Three*** - A record of subsequent events to advance the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch commitment to the two great men.

## ***Acknowledgements***

The Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch thanks the Reynolds family, Bill Smith and Bob Cremer for their assistance in compiling these records to honour the memory of Alex Reynolds and Corporal Ernest Corey MM\*\*\*.



# *Part One*

This first Part is an introduction to former President Alex Reynolds. This book stems from years of commitment by Alex to honour the memory of Ernest Corey, one of Australia's greatest soldiers. It also introduces Ernie Corey and discusses progress made towards raising the hero profile of Ernie up to the year 2020.

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## *Introduction*

The story of local lad Ernest Corey and his involvement in the historic “Snowball March” or the “Men from Snowy River” march to join the Army during WWI first captured the interest of Alex Reynolds in the 1990s. At that time Alex was President of the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch and his Deputy President was Bob Berriman who knew Ernie Corey quite well. Both Bob and Ernie were inaugural members of the Sub-Branch. Bob often spoke of how Ernie enlisted and went on to win fame as the only soldier in the British Commonwealth to be awarded the Military Medal on four occasions. Alex’s interest was aroused and at Bob’s urging, he visited Corey’s hometown of Cooma to learn more about this “local hero” Ernie. The papers that Alex assembled over the next thirty years are featured as Part 2 of this publication as they were assembled in unfinished draft form by his family.

His friend and colleague since their early Army days as gunner officers, Bill Smith, also served as President of the Sub-Branch and, for similar reasons, had also set out to raise the profile of Ernie. It was important to Bill on the sudden death of Alex, with the help of family and friends, to present Alex’s records in this one-off book form.

No claim is made that the records are complete or accurate. To do so would be to deny the passage of time and the practicalities of gathering, corroborating and interpreting the information concerning past events. Unlike military records, lifestyle and personal records are seldom recorded.

Alex recounted many exciting accounts of Ernie’s heroic deeds, some quite poignant and others humorous. Unfortunately the records on which they were based may have been lost or misplaced during the collection process and are not recorded here. Clearly there is lots more to learn about Ernie. Further study promises more rewards.

This book is envisaged to become part of the Corey Room collection and available through the Woden Valley RSL library to members wishing to learn more about the life and times of Alex Reynolds and Ernie Corey.

## *Alex Reynolds - 1930-2020*

Born during the deepening crisis of the great depression in Prahran, Vic on 30 Nov 1930, Alex and his family moved a number of times while he was educated at several Catholic schools and finally the Christian Brothers College in St Kilda. His military career started when he joined the School cadets, but his association with the real Army started with his enlistment in the CMF unit, 8/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles at the time it was raised in mid-1948. He was employed in clerical and sales-based jobs when he applied for, and was accepted for entry into the Royal Military College, Duntroon in Feb 1949. He graduated as a gunner officer into the 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery in Dec 1952. However, within six months he was transferred to Infantry to enable him to serve overseas in the 1st, and subsequently the 3rd Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment in Korea. While there, Alex was



selected for duty at Headquarters 1st Commonwealth Division in 1954. On return to Australia and to Artillery in Dec 54, Alex spent the next four years on the Regular Army Staff of the CMF 31st and 8th Medium Field Regiments in Victoria before joining 111th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery in Sydney. Next followed as a student at the Army Staff College in 1961, after which he was an instructor at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. He returned to 1st Fd Regt RAA in Jan 1965. Major Reynolds assumed command of Australia's prestige "A" Field Battery RAA and he led it in Malaysia during the period of Indonesian Confrontation. Alex returned to AHQ in Sep 67 on promotion.

In Aug 1972, Lt Col Alex Reynolds was posted to the USA to attend the US Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va in preparation to serve two and a half years as the senior staff officer in the Head of the Australian Defence Staff at our Embassy in Washington DC during 1973-75. Returning to Army HQ as the Director of Co-ordination and Organisation, Alex was promoted to the rank of Colonel in Aug 1975. This was to be his final posting as Alex at that time decided to pursue other interests in Canberra in Apr 1977.

For his valuable service to the Nation, Alex Reynolds was awarded the:

- Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp Malaysia
- United Nations Service Medal (Korea)
- Australian Service Medal 1845-75 with Clasps Korea and SEA
- Australian General Service Medal for Korea
- Defence Force Service Medal with First and Second Clasps
- National Medal with First Clasp
- Australian Defence Medal
- Pingat Jasa Malaysia
- Returned from Active Service Medal

The urge to record his service to the community through many agencies is resisted. It is a huge subject that would require too much space here to do it justice. However, Alex's great contributions to the League are well recorded in Woden Valley RSL records and magazines. He was twice elected as President of the Sub-Branch and responsible for a number of reforms, enhanced membership and a surge in welfare initiatives.

At another time Alex was a popular President of the Queanbeyan-Eden-Monaro Legacy Club. Once again, their records will show that his love for the organisation and the calibre of his work was evident and fully appreciated.

Another of his abiding interests was to serve as a volunteer guide at the Australian War Memorial. This fulfilled his desire to help members of the public to research family service records and to appreciate the wonders of the Memorial. It also allowed him to pursue his deep interest in military history. His understanding of strategies, tactics and leadership straddled most wars over the years and knew no bounds.

A favorite with the staff and public, Alex was recognised by the Australian War Memorial in 2019 on achieving 15 years of outstanding service as a volunteer.

## Ernest Albert Corey - 1891-1972

Unfortunately, we left the process of gathering information about Ernest Albert Corey far too late for us to learn very much about Ernie's early childhood. Records show he was born on 20 December 1891 at Green Hills near Cooma, New South Wales, eighth child of Thomas Corey, selector, and his wife Ellen, née Burke, both of whom were native-born. He was educated at Thubergal Lake Public School and then worked as a labourer in the Cooma district. On 13 January 1916 he left home and his job as a blacksmith's striker to march to Goulburn in a "Snowball" recruiting march.

### *The "Snowball March"*

In 1916 a series of "snowball" recruiting marches captured the public imagination. One of the most famous was the "Men from Snowy River" march. Ernie Corey was one of fourteen recruits to set out from nearby Delegate, NSW on 15 January 1916, behind the banner (shown here) sewn by the women of the town.



Despite rain and dust storms, the men persevered in their march, picking up volunteers on the way. Feted at rallies and receptions, they were 142 strong by the time they reached the AIF camp at Goulburn 23 days later. A second "Men from Snowy River" march was conducted during WWII, using the same banner and again starting from Delegate and ending in Goulburn. A third and final march was held as an Australian Bicentennial celebration in 1988, after which the banner was presented to the Australian War Memorial.

By the time Ernie Corey reached Goulburn he had enlisted in the AIF. Much can be surmised from the early Army documentation of Ernie's enlistment to form a picture of a country boy eager to serve his country. Rather than presenting a version of it here, readers are encouraged to study the documentation in Part 2 of this book and "put yourself in his boots" as he moves through recruit training and embarks on an adventure beyond the breadth of any young soldier's imagination of the horrors of war.



## World War I Service

Private E Corey was small in stature and powerfully built with a lively personality. He was allotted to the 55th Battalion and embarked for overseas service in Sep 1916. He joined his unit in France on 8 Feb 1917 and took part in the capture of Doignies. On 15 May 1916, his brigade suffered heavy casualties in an action near Quéant and Corey volunteered to serve as a stretcher-bearer. Showing 'great courage' he worked for seventeen hours in no man's land and was awarded the Military Medal. He then became a regular stretcher-bearer and won a Bar to his medal for 'devotion to duty' in the battle of Polygon Wood on 26 Sep, carrying out his

duties under 'very heavy artillery and machine-gun fire'. He was awarded a second Bar for 'conspicuous gallantry' at Péronne on 1-2 Sep 1918 and a third Bar during an attack on the Hindenburg Line north of Bellicourt on 30 Sep. Here the newly promoted Corporal Corey was in charge of the battalion's stretcher-bearers. Despite intense machine-gun and shell-fire directed at them, 'with the utmost skill and bravery' and 'regardless of personal danger ... he attended to men and carried them from the most exposed positions' until he was severely wounded and evacuated to England for hospitalisation. He returned to Australia on 30 Apr 1919.

## Back Home

Following demobilization, Ernie Corey worked at Cooma as a contract rabbitier, and in 1922 moved to Canberra as a camp caretaker. On 23 September 1924, at St Gregory's Catholic Church, Queanbeyan, New South Wales, he married Sarah Jane Fisher; there was one daughter of the marriage which was dissolved in 1935. In 1927-40, Ernie worked in a number of jobs in Canberra, Goulburn and Queanbeyan including doing a stint as an office cleaner with the then Department of the Interior.

## World War II Service

During WWII Private Ernie Corey served with the 2nd Garrison Battalion. Following his second discharge from the Army, Ernie sought work as a caretaker, and then as a cook for a departmental survey party and as a leading hand at the Canberra incinerator. By 1951 he was almost crippled with osteoarthritis. Survived by his daughter, he died at Queanbeyan Private Nursing Home on 25 Aug 1972. Ernie was buried with full military honours in the military section of Woden cemetery in the ACT.



## The Military Medal

The Military Medal is awarded to non-commissioned officers and below for bravery and distinction in battle. For subsequent acts of bravery deserving the award of a second medal, a silver Bar is added to the medal ribbon. More than 11,000 Military Medals have been awarded to Australians, but Ernie Corey is the only man ever to have received the medal on four separate occasions. This is denoted by three silver bars on the ribbon as shown below and remains a unique achievement in the history of the British Empire.



## Corey Medal Collections

Woden Valley RSL holds two sets of Corey duplicate medals, both mounted in early 2020 and presented to the Sub-Branch in April of that year as a gift. Unbeknown to each other, two members purchased duplicate medals for mounting in time for presentation at the official opening of the Corey Room. One member, Ross Smith, a medal expert and accomplished medal mounter, adopted the swing mounting method where each medal is attached to the brooch and allowed to swing freely as shown below. This was the normal method in Corey's time. Meanwhile Alex Reynolds chose the now preferred court mounted style (illustrated on page 11) where the ribbon appears down the rear of the medal and is mounted to a hard backing. The medals are then secured to this backing to prevent movement during drill movements or when the wearer is marching. It does reduce the chance of vibrational damage to the medals while being worn and is considered by many to improve the overall appearance of the medals.



Alex framed the medals he donated together with a photograph of Ernie on one side and a photograph of his old helmet on the other. The Ross Smith presentation shown above was later framed to highlight Ernie's march towards greatness and become a vital part of the Corey collection of artifacts. The final medal displays are discussed in more detail in Part 3 of this publication.





## Who are the War Heroes?

It is inevitable that comparisons will be drawn with the legendary John (Jack) Simpson Kirkpatrick (pictured at left) who with the use of a local donkey, brought wounded down from the heights above ANZAC Cove before being killed by machine gun fire within the first month. Simpson's remarkable deeds led to him being recommended for the award of a medal, but the bid was unsuccessful.

However, his story was promoted to become an Australian legend and he went on to become established as Australia's war hero. Repeated attempts to have him awarded a posthumous VC failed, partly because in 1919 King George V decreed an end to granting operational awards for the recently concluded war.

Before and since then the award of a VC is the generally accepted measure of a War Hero. The British VC was the model when Australia created its own Victoria Cross for Australia (VC) on 15 Jan 1991 as the highest award in the Australian Honours System superseding the British VC. It is the "decoration for according recognition to persons who in the presence of the enemy, perform acts of the most conspicuous gallantry, or daring or pre-eminent acts of valour or self-sacrifice or display extreme devotion to duty." It takes precedence in Australia over all orders, decorations and medals.

There are strong arguments that hero status is deserving for multiple acts of bravery such as those where a Military Medal is awarded. It is also important to appreciate that bravery and heroism occur in battle at all levels in combat regardless of rank or duty. Ernie Corey, as a stretcher-bearer, achieved recognition for his exceptional calmness and dedication in rescuing the wounded under heavy fire in a series of battles over sixteen months. A strong man, Corey would often carry the wounded rather than use a stretcher. After the war he remained proud that he had saved the lives of many fellow Australians without firing an angry shot.

His record, as set out in this collection, demonstrates he was a true hero.

## Ernie's Helmet

In addition to his medals, Ernie's handpainted helmet is on display in the Palestine Gallery at the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

This photo of Corporal Ernie Corey's helmet is by courtesy of the AWM.



The outside of the helmet has been decorated in red, white, black, orange, brown and green paint. Around the black painted rim are the words: 'ANZAC EGYPT FRANCE BELGIUM SOMME'. On the dome of the helmet, which has an overall orange paint finish are, at the top, a curved scroll containing the words 'FOR THE HONOUR', above another scroll which reads 'OF BOTH'. Immediately below this scroll are the words 'CORPORAL E.A. COREY. MM'. The space between the scrolls contains the painted colour patch of 55 Battalion, AIF, a vertical oblong, divided brown against green. Below the scrolls is a black shield containing what appears to have been an image of an Australian soldier wearing a slouch hat, only the silhouette is now visible. The shield is flanked by the flags of Great Britain and Australia, which are suspended from poles which cross behind the shield. Another black shield below this contains, in white; 'No.2143. 1914-1918'. Crossed flagpoles behind this suspend the French and Belgian flags, and the gap between the two shields, painted brown, contains the word 'AIF'. On a yellow and brown painted scroll down the left hand side of the dome are the words: 'YPRES FIRST BAR MM', 'BELLECOURT [sic] 3RD BAR', 'DOIGNIES' 'PERONNE'. A similar scroll down the right hand side reads: 'MORLAN WOOD SECOND BAR MM', 'BULLECOURT MM', 'VILLERS BRETONNEUX', and 'FLEURBAIX'. The bottom section of the helmet dome features a large painted Rising Sun badge, above which is a kangaroo flanked by the miniature flags of Canada, Italy, the United States, Japan, Scotland (the flag is in reverse colours) and New Zealand. Below the Rising Sun are the words '55 BATT' and '5 DIV'.

The timing and circumstances surrounding the painting of the helmet are unclear. Intrigue is heightened by unequal fading of the campaign names around the rim and the reversed colours of the Scottish flag.

## Woden Valley RSL Replica Helmet

A helmet was donated by Bill Smith in 1987 to complete the Sub-Branch memorial display of an Army disposal .303 Lee Enfield rifle reversed and welded on a metal base fitted with a pair of flag holders. It had belonged to one of his younger brothers, Fred Smith, a fine soldier who served two tours of duty in Borneo that were later followed by two tours in Vietnam. The Borneo operation was the last occasion that Australian units wore that particular style of helmet before it was replaced by the American bonnet style model. Fred kept his helmet as a souvenir but on retirement to Queensland he passed it to Bill.

The combined helmet/flag display was used constantly in various ceremonies for the next twenty five years when the idea of involving the memory of Ernie Corey was raised. A persistent and enthusiastic Alex Reynolds started the search for an artist who could reproduce the intricate art work that Ernie had added to his helmet. Finally, Bill Smith's son-in-law, Mark Lonsdale offered to help.



Mark, who had just retired as a CSIRO Divisional Head, grew up in an accomplished artistic family. Demonstrating that he had also mastered their skills, Mark painted Fred's helmet as an outstanding replica of Ernie's helmet. The photo above shows artist Mark Lonsdale with President Jim Gilchrist and Bill Smith holding a photo of Ernie's helmet above that of the replica.

## Birth of The Corey Room Concept

Meanwhile the concept of naming a "Corey Room" was being pursued by the Sub-Branch Board of Management with the appointment of a small committee (or team) led by our Chaplain Mick O'Donnell with members Alex Reynolds, Bill Smith and Bob Cremer. It was decided that previously documented material be collated and condensed into a reference book that not only honours Ernie Corey, but would also embrace his RSL membership and the history of his original connections with the Woden Valley Sub-Branch. This book is an outcome of that requirement.

## Portrait of Private Ernest Corey

An early task in the presentation of “The Corey Room” was to find a distinguishing portrait of Ernie to serve as a central display. The planning committee identified an official portrait of him after being presented with his first Military Medal by King George V in Paris. Good copies of that photo were readily available through a number of sources. Unfortunately, this worked against its selection because the portrait would not be unique. However, the photo had been used as a front page item in an ANZAC Day special in the Canberra Times many years before hand. A copy held by Bill Smith was studied by the committee and was selected as an excellent basis for the Corey portrait as shown.

One of the many reasons that the front page of the newspaper was preferred was because it illustrated that this brave young soldier was widely accepted as a local hero in the Canberra area half a century after his return from WWI. A further fifty-years later, we now wanted to generate that same community spirit. Various processes were employed to transfer the image of the front page onto archival quality paper, all signs of folding, ageing and blemishes on the original were removed, as was the commercial barcoding.

It was decided to leave the rather dominant Southern Cross Club advertisement with its appropriate ANZAC

message untouched because it not only added colour to the image, but the message also had a genuine ring to it. The Team wished to recognise the close relationship between the RSL and the Southern Cross Club that followed the sale of our premises to them during the world-wide financial collapse. The Club continued the development of the property along family-friendly principles as envisaged by the Woden Valley RSL when it was first built. The Canberra Southern Cross Club also provided the RSL Sub-Branch with many of the facilities needed during our recovery years.

The digitised paper image was raised above the green background to give it some “depth” during the framing process, and to avoid an appearance of a newspaper cutting having been hastily pasted to a wall.

The popular portrait of “Our Hero” now occupies a commanding position in The Corey Room with his medals and other memorabilia nearby.



## **The Corey Room honours Woden Sub-Branch Member**

*From an article by Bob Cremer - The Serviceman ANZAC Edition 2020*

The long-held passion of RSL members Bill Smith and Alex Reynolds moved a step closer to fruition when some amazing artwork was unveiled at the Sub-Branch meeting room at Holder recently; the room is planned to be officially named *The Corey Room* in 2020.

Bill and Alex have for years researched and promoted the cause of the former Australian soldier Ernie Corey who served in the First Australian Imperial Force during WWI on the Western Front, in the attack at Fromelles, the Battle of the Somme, the Battle of Passchendaele, the Battle of Arras, and in WWII.

Corporal Corey died in 1972 aged 81 and is buried in the Military section at Woden Cemetery. He was awarded the Military Medal four times, being the only man in the Commonwealth to have ever been so honoured.

After Bill and Alex briefly retold Corey's heroic story, artist Mark Lonsdale, unveiled the beautifully colourful, reproduction of a WWI battle helmet, replicating the original owned and hand-painted by Corey many years ago. It includes the flags of participating nations, gum trees, and battle honours. Mark said that it was an honour; a gesture of thanks to all those who serve and served our country.

Sub-Branch President Jim Gilchrist announced that the large room will be refurbished with suitable memorabilia, including trophy cases, conference facilities, banners and a military audio and pictorial library. A plan was agreed to collate previously documented material and write it into a book that not only honours Corey, but remembers his RSL membership, and taps into the 103-year history of the Woden Valley Sub-Branch, which he co-founded.

Notice was given that the room would also feature Corey's medals and appropriate signage.



*Alex Reynolds unveils the refurbished Memorial Stand*

## Ernie Corey and the RSL

Ernie was a popular member of his RSL Sub-Branch but little was recorded of him as an individual. This is not unremarkable because the RSL does not encourage publicity of individual members. Rather the focus is on the tasks they perform. Most references to Ernie in the long running Sub-Branch magazine, *The Serviceman*, relate to advice he gave on his change of address when he moved to Goulburn and Queanbeyan.

Perhaps some insight to this apparently self-effacing man can be drawn from one article contained in the 1965 ANZAC Issue of *The Serviceman*. Titled "*The Queen Bee*", it provides some insight (at last) to Ernie and his standing in the Sub-Branch. The article reads:

### *THE QUEEN BEE*

"All Sub-branch members know our oldest and most distinguished member, Ernest A. Corey, the only man in history to be awarded the Military Medal four times! To his old pals in the 55th Battalion and his many friends in later years in Canberra, he was also well known for his fine sense of humour and for his many famous yarns. One of his tallest stories so impressed another grand old Canberra stalwart, the late James Cardinal O'Reilly, that in 1933 he committed it to verse! Thanks to Life Member, Archie McKissock, who kept a copy of it all these years, "The Serviceman" proudly reproduces it hereunder:-

*Have you studied the records of marksmen?  
The wonderful scores they put up!  
Twenty bulls-eyes in succession  
Were scored in a Bisley Cup.  
But wherever the guns are competing,  
Whatever new records they make,  
There is one that will take some beating  
Put up by a bloke at Westlake.*

*This bloke kept bees in his garden  
And one day when the weather was warm,  
Without an excuse or beg pardon,  
In a flash they started to swarm.  
There was no time to call the hands  
There was not a moment to spare,  
Before they could start beating cans  
The bees circled high in the air.*

*But this bloke was not stopped by a trifle,  
He was always a hard bloke to beat;  
So, he rushed in and got his old rifle  
As the swarm zoomed out o'er the street.  
And as they soared o'er the Highwoods,  
And made a bee line for the town  
He pointed the old rifle skywards  
And fired - and shot the Queen down!*

*And with the loss of their leader  
The bees started to circle the green  
To alight on the branch of a cedar  
That grew where he shot down the Queen.  
Now they're back once again in the garden  
Where he robbed them on Christmas Eve.  
Now if perhaps some may think  
That this tale is a hard one to believe...*

*Well, for those who are doubting the story  
Of this Marksman who ranks with the stars,  
I'll tell you his name; it is Corey,  
A bloke with a cross and three bars.  
And of those who've won fame and glory,  
I know that you all will agree,  
There was never a marksman like Corey  
The man who shot down the Queen Bee!*

*James Cardinal O'Reilly*

## **Community Appreciation of a Hero**

Ernie Corey had won respect and admiration in the Nation's capital city and region. This is demonstrated in many different ways as shown in the following paragraphs. Somehow the message failed to spread beyond those tight boundaries, even in Army institutions or organisations. It is assumed that one reason would be that they all had their own local heroes to acknowledge.



If this were an overriding factor, the question to be addressed is how did John or Jack Simpson or Kirkpatrick and his donkey rise to great fame after Kirkpatrick arrived in Australia having “jumped ship” to become an “illegal immigrant” with no hometown connections? Perhaps the truth lies in how much Government promotion is involved in telling the story and, of course, the timing that could provide a useful offset to the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign. There is no doubt that what Simpson did was deserving of the highest praise. He was a hero but so were many others.

Whatever way these things are determined, the appreciation of Ernie Corey’s exploits at the time was both genuine and appropriate. However, time is now sadly eroding the community base support he once enjoyed due to a number of factors, not least being that the continuation of wars since “the war to end all wars” has resulted in exposing a growing number of fine young heroes to be recognised. Combined with the rapid thinning out of the population that knew Ernie and his outstanding service to the country, the trend towards anonymity is likely to continue.

The need for the present Woden Valley RSL program to re-acquaint current members with the life, courage and devotion of former member Ernie Corey is clear. Hopefully it will lead to a resurgence of community appreciation of heroes prepared to frustrate all enemies of our Nation.

Existing memorials to Ernie Corey discussed here are:

- Australian War Memorial Display
- Canberra Street Name
- Hometown Cooma Memorial
- Australian Capital Territory Honour Walk

## **Australian War Memorial Display**



The Australian War Memorial maintains a special display to highlight the achievements of Corporal Ernest Corey MM and three bars.

This is where Ernie’s hand-painted helmet (described in detail earlier) is displayed in the Palestine Gallery. His original medals are on display nearby with those of VC winners and other war heroes.



## Canberra Street Name

The name of Ernie Corey was commemorated when a street was named after him in the newly established Canberra suburb of Gowrie in 1981. The action was initiated just a few years after his death in 1972.

Gowrie is located in the northern end of the Tuggeranong Valley and built on the former site of the historic Athllon Homestead. The suburb was named to honour the former Governor General of Australia, Brigadier General Lord Gowrie who was awarded a Victoria Cross (VC) for bravery in the Sudan. It was a nice gesture to name all of the streets in the suburb in honour of decorated members of the Australian Defence Force in addition to those with VCs. A distinction is made in street names when the image of the VC is added to Victoria Cross winners name on the sign. Winners of lesser decorations are shown by name only.



It is most pleasing that COREY PLACE is surrounded by VC winners, some of whom received their award in the battles in which Ernie also fought.

The commemoration of war heroes is not confined to the suburb of Gowrie but it does represent the highest concentration of examples.

## Hometown Cooma Honours Ernest Corey



Citizens of the Cooma and the Monaro District have always been proud of Ernest Corey, their war hero. Their high regard for him resulted in a series of generous donations being made towards a memorial plaque in his honour, which was mounted in Centennial Park in Cooma in 1979.

Over time it became obvious the plaque was wrongly located and should be moved into the area of the Cooma Cenotaph. The plaque was relocated there in 1995. The small committee involved with the relocation decided it would be fitting to erect a diorama based on the famous painting in the Australian War Memorial depicting stretcher bearers bringing in the wounded soldiers under heavy shell fire at Mont St Quentin in the First World War.

Local sculptor/artist, Mr Chris Graham, was commissioned to undertake the project. Due to his dedicated work and keen commitment, an outstanding diorama was produced. The diorama, including making all of the individual figures took 260 hours to complete. Constructed from two tons of steel and concrete, it was erected at the Cenotaph site on 23 Apr 1996.

## **Australian Capital Territory Honour Walk**

A Walk of Honour pays tribute to outstanding residents and is a much visited feature of Canberra city. It is located in the city centre between the ACT Legislative buildings and the main city centre shopping mall.





The plaque at left was set in the walkway pictured on previous page in response to a request initiated by the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch in 2010.

At a fitting ceremony, Corporal Ernest Corey was remembered by ACT the Government for his repeated acts of bravery, strength and skills in rescuing wounded comrades in the face of the enemy.

Even so it is difficult to contemplate here in this peaceful capital of Australia, the horrific situations that Ernie Corey and his comrades had to endure in a war-torn Europe to protect the qualities of life we now enjoy. Long may we visit the memorial to give thanks as we recall the life of this gallant and courageous war time Hero.





## **Part Two (Pages 24-40)**



Part Two represents the core of Alex's collection as put together by his family. The task was eased by Margaret who assisted Alex in assembling some material in preparation for eventual publication. That task was far from completion, but the bulk of his papers were located.

It was considered that any attempt to assemble the papers into a book would fail, it being most unlikely that the book Alex envisaged could be fabricated by anyone else.

There was general support for his family to gather, sort and bind copies of available working papers and make them available for continued research. This process is underway now with copies readily available through the Sub-Branch Headquarters in Holder.

This particular copy is different in that Alex's scholarship is sandwiched between two other parts that are designed to provide context for the information provided.

In particular, this book enables Woden Valley RSL to express its gratitude for the many ways in which Alex nurtured it through some difficult times. It is with pride that Part Two is presented in its interrupted format to be part of a whole publication and an enduring tribute to Alex.



# 2134 Corporal Ernest Albert Corey Military Medal and 3 Bars



AN INFR. 2143 Pte. Ernest Albert COREY.

...IAN INFANTRY BDE. 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. AUSTRALIAN CORPS. 5th Bn.

Action for which commended.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations at FEROME on 1st and 2nd September 1918. This man who is a stretcher bearer, dressed and carried wounded of severe wounds through the whole of the operations. Although the enemy artillery this did not deter him was exceptionally heavy this did not deter him from carrying on. He worked continuously and arduously and was the means of saving the lives of many of the young men. He worked throughout and helped greatly. Throughout of course to duty.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations at FEROME on 1st and 2nd September 1918. This man who is a stretcher bearer, dressed and carried wounded of severe wounds through the whole of the operations. Although the enemy artillery this did not deter him from carrying on. He worked continuously and arduously and was the means of saving the lives of many of the young men. He worked throughout and helped greatly. Throughout of course to duty.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations at FEROME on 1st and 2nd September 1918. This man who is a stretcher bearer, dressed and carried wounded of severe wounds through the whole of the operations. Although the enemy artillery this did not deter him from carrying on. He worked continuously and arduously and was the means of saving the lives of many of the young men. He worked throughout and helped greatly. Throughout of course to duty.

AWARDED MILITARY MEDAL.  
Authority 1st A.V.2.A.O.

Private Ernest Albert COREY.

44 Sept 20/18  
has. 76 / 22/10/18



# Ernest (Ernie) Albert Corey

1891 - 1972



During the enemy attack on front line facing  
QUEANT on 15th May 1917, Private Corey, whilst  
acting as a stretcher bearer, showed great  
courage and devotion to duty. Although under  
direct enemy observation, he carried out his  
duties continuously for 17 hours without rest,  
and in a manner worthy of the highest commendation.  
Although an untrained stretcher bearer, he,  
together with the rest of the bearing party,  
saved by first aid the lives of seriously wounded  
men. The Commander of the 54th Battalion wrote  
an appreciative letter for the help given, and  
specially mentioned the stretcher bearing party  
for their good work.

C.J.L  
Brig.  
Comd

Aqd. Ernie  
Brig-General,  
Commanding 5th Australian Division.

## Preface

Ernest (Ernie) Albert Corey a born at Numeralla in the Southern Highlands of NSW on 20th December 1891, the eighth child of Thomas Corey and his wife Ellen nee Burke. After he finished school he gained employment as a blacksmith's striker in nearby Cooma.

In 1916 at Nimmitabel just south of Cooma he joined the "Men from Snowy River March" and after an historic march enlisted in the AIF in Goulburn on 13th January 1916. He departed Sydney on 4th September 1916 as a member of the 55th Australian Infantry Battalion and arrived in France on 8th February 1917.

On 15th May 1917 after an enemy attack volunteers were called for to supplement the overstretched battalion stretcher bearers. Ernie joined them and performed so well that he was awarded a Military Medal just one year after it was established. He became one of the unit stretcher bearers and on three subsequent occasions up to 30th September 1918 he was awarded further military medals — an achievement not ever achieved in the armies of the British Commonwealth in any conflict.

This would be enough cause to produce a book about Ernie, but Woden Valley RSL Sub Branch has a particular reason not only to produce a reference volume in acknowledgment of Ernie's works but also to acknowledge that he was a founding member of Yarralumla RSL Sub-branch that morphed into the present day Woden Valley Sub-branch. Thus, he is part of our Sub-Branch history.

So this document will find its place in The Ernie Corey Room established by his former sub-branch.

By way of commentary it is worth noting that six Australians were awarded Victoria Crosses in the Boer War for saving lives under fire. We can't know how many lives Ernie saved, but he did it over a period of 15th May 1917 to 30th September 1918 when he was seriously wounded. Different times have different measures.

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### **Ernest Corey - Wikipedia**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest\\_Albert\\_Corey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Albert_Corey)



# Ernest Corey

**Ernest Albert Corey**, MM & Three Bars (20 December 1891 – 25 August 1972) was a distinguished Australian soldier who served as a stretcher bearer during the **First World War**. He enlisted in the **Australian Imperial Force** on 13 January 1916, and was allocated to the **55th Battalion**, where he was initially posted to a grenade section before volunteering for stretcher bearing duties. In 1917 he was twice awarded the **Military Medal** for his devotion to duty in aiding wounded soldiers, and twice again in 1918; becoming the only person to be awarded the Military Medal four times.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

Born in New South Wales, Corey was employed as a blacksmith's striker upon leaving school. In January 1916, he became a member of the "Men from Snowy River" recruiting march, enlisting in Goulburn. Returning to Australia after the **Armistice**, he was discharged on medical grounds in 1919 and was employed in a number of jobs before re-enlisting in a militia battalion for service in the **Second World War**. He died in 1972 and was buried with full military honours in the Ex-Servicemen's section of **Woden Cemetery**, Australian Capital Territory.

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## Early life

Corey was born on 20 December 1891 in Numeralla, New South Wales, the eighth child of Thomas Corey and his wife Ellen, née Burke. He was educated at Thubergal Lake Public School,<sup>[1]</sup> before leaving to become a **blacksmith's striker** at Martin's Smithy in Cooma.<sup>[3]</sup> In January 1916, Corey marched from Cooma to Goulburn as a member of the "Men from Snowy River" recruiting march, and enlisted on 13 January. Along with the majority of other members of the march, he was allotted to the **55th Battalion**.<sup>[1]</sup>

## First World War

Following training at Goulburn camp, he embarked for overseas on 4 September aboard *HMAT Port Sydney* with the 4th Reinforcements for the 55th Battalion.<sup>[4]</sup> Arriving in England, he spent three months with the 14th Training Battalion at Hurdcott Camp near Fovant in Wiltshire,<sup>[3]</sup> before joining the 55th Battalion on 8 February 1917 at Montauban, France.<sup>[1]</sup> Posted to the grenade section of "C" Company, he took part in the capture of **Doignies** in April.<sup>[3]</sup>

**Ernest Albert Corey**



Ernest Albert Corey c.1916

Nickname(s)	Ernie
Born	20 December 1891 <div>Numeralla, New South Wales</div>
Died	25 August 1972 (aged 80) <div>Canberra, Australian Capital Territory</div>
Allegiance	Australia
Service/branch	Australian Imperial Force
Years of service	1916–1919 1941–1943
Rank	Corporal
Unit	55th Battalion (1916–19) 2nd Garrison Battalion (1941–43)
Battles/wars	First World War <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Western Front</li> <li>Battle of Fromelles</li> <li>Battle of the Somme</li> <li>Battle of Passchendaele</li> <li>Battle of Arras</li></ul> Second World War
Awards	Military Medal & Three Bars



'Men from Snowy River' at Cooma.

On 15 May, Corey's brigade was in action near Quéant. Suffering heavy losses, the Commanding Officer of the 55th called for volunteers to assist the stretcher bearers; Corey was one of thirty men who volunteered. For seventeen hours, he assisted in carrying the wounded approximately 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) back to the dressing station; he was awarded the Military Medal for this action.<sup>[5]</sup>

Following engagements at Bullecourt, the 5th Division—of which the 55th Battalion was part—spent four months in reserve, before moving into the Ypres sector in Belgium.<sup>[3]</sup> Made a regular stretcher bearer, Corey was decorated with a bar to his Military Medal for his actions on 26 September during the Battle of Polygon Wood. While subject to heavy artillery and machine gun fire, he frequently ventured out into no-man's-land to tend to the wounded.<sup>[6]</sup>

During the winter of 1917–1918, the 55th Battalion was posted to the Messines sector, where Corey was granted leave to the United Kingdom in February 1918. While on leave, he became ill and spent ninety days in hospital before rejoining his battalion in July.<sup>[3]</sup> Shortly after, the Allies launched an offensive against the Germans in August along the Somme, where the 55th Battalion became involved in the capture of Péronne in September.<sup>[7]</sup> It was here where Corey received the second bar to his Military Medal; between 1–2 September, while subject to heavy machine gun and artillery fire, he continually assisted the wounded with first aid.<sup>[8]</sup>

Promoted to corporal on 21 September, he was placed in charge of the battalion's stretcher bearers, whom he led during the battle north of Bellicourt on 30 September. Corey attended to the wounded while exposed to fire, and continued to direct other bearer parties throughout the action until wounded himself, receiving wounds in the right groin and thigh.<sup>[3]</sup> It was during this engagement that he was awarded a third bar to his Military Medal.<sup>[9]</sup> Evacuated to a casualty station, Corey was operated on before receiving a transfer to a general hospital at Le Havre. Operated on again, he was sent to a hospital in Bristol, England. Repatriated to Australia on 30 April 1919, he was medically discharged in June.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Later life

Returning to Cooma, Corey was employed as a contract rabbitier before moving to Canberra in 1922, where he was employed as a camp caretaker. On 23 September 1924, at St Gregory's Catholic Church, Queanbeyan, he married Sarah Jane Fisher; the pair later had a daughter, Patricia, before the marriage was dissolved in 1935. Between 1927 and 1940, Corey worked for the Department of the Interior as an office cleaner.<sup>[1]</sup> He re-enlisted for service in the Second World War with the Australian Military Forces on 23 September 1941, and was posted to the 2nd Garrison Battalion for two years before he was medically discharged as a private on 11 October 1943.<sup>[10]</sup>

He then went through a series of jobs, including employment as a caretaker, a cook for a departmental survey party and as a leading hand at the Canberra incinerator. By 1951 he was almost crippled with osteoarthritis, and soon after was admitted to the Queanbeyan Private Nursing Home,<sup>[1]</sup> where he died on 25 August 1972; he was buried with full military honours in the Ex-Servicemen's section of Woden Cemetery.<sup>[2]</sup>

His medals are displayed in the First World War gallery at the Australian War Memorial,<sup>[3]</sup> and replicas of his medals and copies of the citations for the Military Medal and three bars can be viewed in the Canberra Services Club, of which he was a member for many years.

## Citations

### Military Medal

The award for Corey's Military Medal was published in a supplement to the *London Gazette* on 18 July 1917.<sup>[11]</sup> His citation read:

During the enemy attack on front line facing Queant on 15th May 1917, Pte Corey, whilst acting as a stretcher bearer, showed great courage and devotion to duty. Although under direct enemy observation, he carried out his duties continuously for 17 hours without rest, and in a manner worthy of the highest commendation. Although an untrained stretcher bearer, he, together with the rest of the bearing party saved by first aid the lives of seriously wounded men. The Commander of the 54th Bn wrote an appreciation for the help given, and specially mentioned the stretcher bearing party for their good work.<sup>[5]</sup>



### First Bar to Military Medal

Originally recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Corey was instead awarded a Bar to his Military Medal.<sup>[12]</sup> The award was published in a supplement to the *London Gazette* on 14 January 1917.<sup>[13]</sup> The citation for his first Bar read:

This stretcher bearer showed great courage, devotion to duty and untiring energy during the attack on Polygon Wood on the 26th September 1917. The greatest danger did not deter this man from doing his duty when his services were required, and he tended the wounded and carried them to places of safety continuously throughout the engagement, often under very heavy artillery and machine gun fire. Throughout the whole operations he set a fine example of bravery and coolness to all ranks.<sup>[6]</sup>

### Second Bar to Military Medal

Corey was again originally recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal, but was awarded a second Bar to his Military Medal.<sup>[14]</sup> The award of the second Bar was published in a supplement to the *London Gazette* on 13 March 1919.<sup>[15]</sup> The citation for his second Bar records:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations at Peronne on 1st and 2nd September 1918. This man who is a stretcher bearer, dressed and carried wounded of several units throughout the whole of the operation. Although the enemy artillery and machine gun fire was exceptionally heavy, this did not debar this man from carrying on. He worked continuously and arduously and was the means of saving the lives of many of the wounded. He was most unselfish throughout and cheerful at all times and under all circumstances. His careful handling of the wounded and his knowledge of first aid helped greatly to relieve their sufferings; throughout the operations he set a fine example of courage, coolness, determination and devotion to duty, under heavy fire.<sup>[8]</sup>

### Third Bar to Military Medal

The third Bar to his Military Medal was published in a supplement to the *London Gazette* on 13 June 1919.<sup>[16]</sup> The citation for his third bar records:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as NCO in charge of Battalion stretcher bearers during an attack on the Hindenburg Line north of Bellicourt on 30 September 1918. Although enemy machine gun and shell fire were intense, this gallant NCO directed the operations of the Battalion stretcher bearers with the utmost skill and bravery. Regardless of personal danger, he, on numerous occasions although the enemy were firing upon him and other bearer parties, attended to men and carried them from the most exposed positions. His efforts were untiring and he set a splendid example to all ranks until he was severely wounded. It was mainly due to his magnificent work that the wounded were safely removed from the danger zone.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Memorial

Following several donations by the people of Cooma and the Monaro District, a Memorial Plaque to Corey was erected in Centennial Park, Cooma in 1979. In 1995, the plaque was moved to the Cooma Memorial and the committee involved with the relocation decided to erect a diorama based on a painting in the Australian War Memorial depicting stretcher bearers bringing in wounded soldiers under heavy shell fire at Mont St Quentin during the First World War. A local artist and sculptor, Chris Graham, was commissioned to undertake the project which was constructed from steel and concrete. It was erected in the Cooma War Memorial area on 23 April 1996.<sup>[17]</sup>

The inscription on the memorial reads:<sup>[18]</sup>

“ IN HONOUR OF  
2143 CORPORAL  
ERNEST ALBERT COREY ”

MILITARY MEDAL AND 3 BARS  
 55TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION  
 1ST A.I.F.  
 A MEMBER OF THE MEN FROM  
 SNOWY RIVER MARCH DELEGATE TO  
 GOULBURN  
 THE ONLY SOLDIER EVER TO HAVE  
 BEEN AWARDED A  
 MILITARY MEDAL AND 3 BARS  
 1891–1972  
 ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF MONARO 1979



Ernest Corey's medals on display at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

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- [Digger History – Corey MM \(http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-heroes/corey-mm.htm\)](http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-heroes/corey-mm.htm)
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**"Corey, Ernest Albert (1891–1972)"**

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## Corey, Ernest Albert (1891–1972) by Jean P. Fielding

This article was published in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 8, (MUP), 1981

Ernest Albert Corey (1891-1972), soldier and labourer, was born on 20 December 1891 at Green Hills near Cooma, New South Wales, eighth child of Thomas Corey, selector, and his wife Ellen, née Burke, both of whom were native-born. He was educated at Thubergal Lake Public School and then worked as a labourer in the Cooma district. On 13 January 1916 he left his job as a blacksmith's striker to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force, marching to Goulburn with the 'Men from Snowy River' in a recruiting march.

Corey was allotted to the 55th Battalion and embarked for overseas service in September. He joined his unit in France on 8 February 1917 and in April, as a private in 'C' Company, took part in the capture of Doignies. In an action near Quéant, his brigade suffered heavy casualties and Corey volunteered to serve as a stretcher-bearer; showing 'great courage' he worked for seventeen hours in no man's land and was awarded the Military Medal. He became a regular stretcher-bearer and won a Bar to his medal for 'devotion to duty' in the battle of Polygon Wood on 26 Sep, carrying out his duties under 'very heavy artillery and machine-gun fire'. He was awarded a second Bar for 'conspicuous gallantry' at Péronne on 1-2 Sep 1918 and a third during the attack on the Hindenburg Line north of Bellicourt on 30 Sep. At Bellicourt, Corey, who had been promoted corporal nine days earlier, was in charge of the battalion's stretcher-bearers and, despite intense machine-gun and shell-fire, directed them 'with the utmost skill and bravery'; 'regardless of personal danger ... he attended to men and carried them from the most exposed positions' until he himself was severely wounded and evacuated. He returned to Australia on 30 Apr 1919.

After demobilization Corey worked at Cooma as a contract rabbitier, and in 1922 moved to the Canberra area as a camp caretaker. On 23 Sep 1924, at St Gregory's Catholic Church, Queanbeyan, New South Wales, he married Sarah Jane Fisher; there was one daughter of the marriage which was dissolved in 1935. In 1927-40 he worked in Canberra as an office cleaner with the Department of the Interior, then served with the 2nd Garrison Battalion in World War II. He was later employed as a caretaker, as cook for a departmental survey party and as leading hand at the Canberra incinerator. By 1951 he was almost crippled with osteoarthritis. Survived by his daughter, he died at Queanbeyan Private Nursing Home on 25 August 1972 and was buried with full military honours in Canberra cemetery.

Though small in stature Corey was powerfully built and had a lively personality. He is believed to be the only man to have won three Bars to a Military Medal. Corey Place in the Canberra suburb of Gowrie is named after him, also a fountain in Cooma Centennial Park.

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(<http://www.memorial.act.gov.au/person.php?id=936>).  
 ACT Memorial. Government of the Australian Capital Territory.

# COREY, Ernest Albert

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## Service Details

### Branch of Service

Army

### Conflict

World War II

### Date of Enlistment

23/09/1941

### Date of Discharge

11/10/1943

### Place of Enlistment

Paddington NSW

## Personal Details

### Gender

Male

### Date of Birth

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20/12/1892

**Place of Birth**

Numeralla NSW

**Address (at enlistment)**

34 Westlake (Yarralumla) ACT

**Occupation**

Labourer

**Next of Kin**

Patricia Corey (daughter)

## Unit and Rank Details

**Service Number**

N280612

**Final Rank**

Private

**Final Unit**

2 Garrison Battalion

## Notes

Corey came from the Numeralla area and also served in World War 1, enlisting as part of the Men from Snowy River route march. He served as a stretcher bearer in the 55th Battalion and was the only soldier in the war to be awarded the Military Medal and three bars. That is, he was awarded the Military Medal four times.

The Military Medal (MM) was awarded for his actions at Queant, near Bullecourt, in May 1917. He earned the first bar to the MM at Polygon Wood in September 1917, the second bar at Peronne in September 1918 and the third bar at the Hindenburg Line near Bellicourt on 30 September 1918. On all four occasions it was for rescuing wounded men. His medals have been on display in the Hall of Valour in the Australian War Memorial.

He arrived in Canberra in the early 1920s and lived at Westlake and later Braddon [Back 1](#)

and Downer. He served with the 13th Garrison Battalion at North Head in Sydney from September 1941 until discharged medically unfit with asthma. Corey died on 25 August 1972 and is buried in the ex-service's portion of the Woden Cemetery.

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Stories from the ACT Memorial, 'The Stretcher Bearer', ACT Heritage Library  
[www.library.act.gov.au/find/history/stories\\_from\\_the\\_act\\_memorial](http://www.library.act.gov.au/find/history/stories_from_the_act_memorial)

The Canberra Times - 25 April 2007, 28 April 2007, 14 May 2008

# "Ernest Albert Corey MM"

(<http://www.monaropioneers.com/corey-ea.htm>). Monaro Pioneers



Headstone at Woden Cemetery, 20 March 2008.



Corey Memorial, Vale Street, Cooma NSW

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# The ACT Memorial honours the service of

**Ernest Albert Corey**

Remembered in perpetuity by the ACT Government





## Part Three



Part Three of this book relates to events that took place during part of the tortured year of 2020. Everything changed as Australia began suffering from the aftermath of a record drought followed by widespread bushfires of unimaginable intensity that blanketed Canberra with weeks of smoke and ash. At the same time the world-wide rapidly spreading Covid-19 pandemic virus entered the country and the fight to control or eliminate it started disrupting lives everywhere. Against this background, Woden Valley RSL was shocked by the sudden death, of staunch supporter and twice President Alex Reynolds while all were involved in planning the opening of the Corey Room.

Part One of this book identified the activities already in place to commemorate the brave and courageous service of Ernie Corey. Part Two summarised the assembled data base at that time relating to Ernie's service and his life in general. Part Three now sets out the events happening at the time of Alex's passing and those that followed. It describes how the impetus was maintained by members of a slightly expanded Corey Room Team. While the Sub-Branch remained fully committed to fresh projects and Covid-related adjustments, it provided the Corey Room Team with support and encouragement to continue to turn the Corey Room concept into a proud reality.

The three parts of this book combine to feature 2020 as a base-line year for continuing the research into the life and times of our remarkable hero. It is written for those who believe that his memory should not fade in the years ahead.

May the seeds sown here attract further interest and inspire a younger generation to develop a more complete picture of an Australian great:

**Corporal Ernest Albert Corey MM\*\*\*.**



## **Part Three - Index**

**(Pages 41-60)**

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## **Part Three - Introduction**

From the start of this project The Corey Room Team maintained a record of its activities as a means of developing ideas and establishing guidelines for future work. Unfortunately, the team could not fall back on any consolidated records of previous attempts to commemorate Ernie Corey's achievements. This may have been because there was nothing much to record, or more likely the records were lost with the passage of time over a period of high development for Woden Valley RSL that was interrupted by changes in locations and key personnel. An underlying theme adopted for this book was for it to be preserved as an original record of Corey Room related activities occurring in the year 2020. This led to some overlap in Part One and Part Three on some items, but this was considered to be a better solution than to let information fall through the cracks!

Clearly the first task was to find agreement to the name, purpose and status of the room that was to become our main commemorative focus. Many adaptations on the common "Corey" theme were tried but the unanimous recommendation was to simply call it "The Corey Room". This received a matching endorsement by the Board of Management. The concept of having a naming ceremony to more widely announce the establishment of the multi-purpose room adjacent to the general office was also decided.

Because extended Covid-19 pandemic restrictions ruled out the ability of the Sub-Branch to meet or congregate in the normal manner, the Board proposed that a video of a Virtual Naming Ceremony be produced for promulgation as a means of honouring former member Ernie Corey as one of Australia's greatest ever soldiers.

Arrangements were put in place to devise a video production of that ceremony, gather and arrange articles to be shown and prepare the virtual program.

Part Three of this book discusses different aspects of that program and the activities that flowed from these processes during the rest of year 2020.



## **The Corey Room Naming Ceremony**

### **Background**

The date for this ceremony was to occur before the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch and to coincide with the anniversary of Pte Ernest Corey's first recommendation for the award of a Military Medal on 15 May 1917. However, due to changing coronavirus precautions in Canberra, the ceremony was in the process of being replaced by the "Virtual" video-based ceremony when Alex Reynolds died suddenly on 1 May 2020. His family wrestled with the same restrictions regarding the size and nature of gatherings that eventually led to Alex being accorded a private funeral at Duntroon on the very date he chose for the Corey Room ceremony.

### **President Jim Gilchrist**

The virtual ceremony was opened by Sub-Branch President Jim Gilchrist with a welcome to viewers and a short overview of the history of this undertaking. He acknowledged the team efforts made in reviving the legendary stories of Corporal Ernie Corey and expressed deep pride in having Ernie as one of the inaugural members of the Sub-Branch. Dave Jenkins was singled out for special mention for producing the video of the occasion. Both men looked forward to the time when virus restrictions could be eased and the final video could be released for public viewing. Jim noted that the team effort truly demonstrated the RSL spirit in commemorating the service of individuals and events that reflect the values important to society. These qualities are mostly seen at their best in adversity, including that involving military service.

The President announced that he had just returned from the Royal Military College Chapel, Duntroon where he had, on behalf of the Sub-Branch, farewelled Alex Reynolds in an RSL Funeral Tribute. He could think of no more appropriate way to represent members and colleagues in honoring the extraordinary service of Alex Reynolds who should now be linked, by fate, with the history of Ernie Corey.

The President then introduced the first presenter, Bill Smith, as a former Sub-Branch President and contributor to many past aspects of the success of the Sub-Branch and, at one stage, became involved its very existence. Bill was appointed to the Order of Australia for services to veterans, awarded Life Membership of the RSL in 2001 and in 2019 received the League's highest honour, the Meritorious Service Medal.

## Past President Bill Smith

Bill recalled the years that he and Alex Reynolds worked together to remind Australians of the valiant war record of one of our inaugural members, Ernest Corey. He attributed most of the progress made to Alex. Two long-held goals of the Woden Valley Sub-Branch were firstly, to provide an appropriate facility in a headquarters building where everyone could meet, relax, research and remember former members and friends. The second goal was to give effect to the remembrance of an extraordinary soldier and inaugural Sub-Branch member, Ernie Corey. Both goals were now being realized in this naming ceremony.

Ernie Corey was singled out for this honour a long time ago when another inaugural Sub-Branch member, Bob Berriman, reminded Woden Valley of Ernie's history. Bob had been President on three previous occasions and served as Deputy President to both Alex and Bill. Alex visited Cooma and gathered background data that he continued to augment over the years he was a volunteer guide at the Australian War Memorial. This was at a time when the Sub-Branch was fully committed on other core business and name of Corey was kept alive by various articles and photos published through *The Serviceman*. The enthusiastic support of the editor and successive Presidents maintained the gentle aim of improving the visibility of Ernie Corey within the Sub-Branch. To the outside world he remained very much an unknown hero despite appropriate displays at the Australian War Memorial and his Cooma home base.

Ernie Corey was featured in a special 2007 ANZAC edition in the *Canberra Times* as "Our Hero". At the same time an attempt to generate a matching interest through the ACT Place Names Committee to have an emerging suburb in Woden Valley named "Corey" failed.

Meanwhile, a request to have a commemorative plaque added to the prominent ACT Citizen's Walk in Canberra was supported by the ACT who went to great lengths to locate and invite some of the far-flung Corey family to attend the unveiling. Another appeal for higher recognition of the means available to further develop public awareness of our local hero resulted in Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope seeking advice from his staff "on other suitably significant infrastructure or places that may be named in memory of Corey, such as a major bridge, road or park". Changing times have now eroded these gains.

Another project mentioned was to repaint a steel helmet forming part of the Sub-Branch memorial flag display. Bill's brother Fred had donated the helmet issued to him while on service in Sabah, Borneo during 1966. The Sub-Branch incorporated the helmet, mounted on a .303 rifle, as a feature in its flag memorial in the early 1990s.

It took many years to discover an artist willing to repaint Fred's helmet to replicate Corey's on display in the Australian War Memorial. Eventually Bill's son-in-law, Dr Mark Lonsdale, volunteered and completed the task perfectly. It is now proudly on display in the Corey Room when not in use for its prime role.

Further discussion on these and other aspects and displays would be addressed later in the video but at this juncture, it was time for President Jim will welcome former Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson, to address the phenomena of Ernest Corey and place it in perspective.

### **Opening Address by Dr Brendan Nelson**

There was a wave of excitement in Woden Valley RSL when advised that Dr Brendan Nelson (pictured) had accepted the invitation to be the Guest speaker at the Corey Room opening Ceremony while he was still in the process of standing down from an outstanding period of Directorship of the Australian War Memorial.



Changing arrangements due to virus-related restrictions prevented his appearance at the opening but he kindly offered to complete and forward an appropriate segment for the video production. As expected, it forms a central part of the virtual ceremony records. In his previously recorded address, Dr Nelson demonstrated his well-known ability to reflect on military service while noting the importance that such service has on the lives of all Australians. He identified the people who fought and often sacrificed their lives for our country. In particular, he highlighted Ernie's bravery in saving lives of comrades in the face of an enemy in Europe on repeated occasions.

In thanking the Woden Valley RSL President and members for the invitation to participate in honoring Ernie Corey in this way, Dr Nelson extended the honor to include the service of all who had enlisted and their families who made individual sacrifices in the name of Australian values and beliefs. Inspired and led by heroes, their deeds should not be allowed to diminish.

When recalling the extraordinary service and gallantry of Ernie Corey by giving of himself to rescue the wounded and dying, Dr Nelson described him as a man who didn't give up doing what he had to do.

Not only was he awarded an unprecedented four Military Medals for his actions to save others under enemy fire, on six other occasions he was recommended for the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Ernie operated with other stretcher-bearers as close mates. Some were also decorated.

Dr Nelson touched on Ernie's return to civilian life after years of inevitable stress. Back home, Ernie worked in a range of jobs, married and started a family. The marriage did not last but he continued working in the Canberra area before enlisting again in the Army to serve in WWII. This time age and illness confined him to a supporting role.

In closing, Dr Nelson drew attention to three great institutions that emerged from World War One. One is Legacy who care for families suffering after the injury or death of a spouse or parent, during or after their defence force service. Another great institution is the RSL which has a continuing mission to ensure that programs are in place for the well-being, care, compensation and commemoration of serving and ex-service Defence Force members and their dependents. The third is the Australian War Memorial to honour those who have died or participated in wars involving Australia.

Observing that the concept of the Woden Valley RSL initiative in remembering a former member and great soldier is consistent with the aims of all three great institutions, Dr Nelson took pride in dedicating the Corey Room in its expanding role and formally declared it open.

o o o o O O O O o o o o

*The Reverend Mick O'Donnell*

President Jim Gilchrist then introduced the leader of the Corey Room Team, Sub-Branch Chaplain, the Reverend Mick O'Donnell to deliver the blessing detailed on the following page.



## **Prayer of Dedication for the Corey Room**

*The Reverend Mick O'Donnell*

Almighty and loving God, from whom we cannot be parted, by death or by life, hear our prayers and thanksgiving for the memory of Ernest Corey and his family to whom we dedicate this room. To all those who have served our Sub-Branch faithfully over the years and who were instrumental in ensuring that we indeed remember our living and deceased membership, particularly our dear friend Alex Reynolds and his contributions.

As we remember them Lord, we are grateful for the peace and freedom that we enjoy in our country, that we may learn from this pandemic isolation, how to build a just society for the generations to come. We pray that the memory of our Veterans will inspire in us the resolve to seek your kingdom. That we may listen to your promptings to respond to your will in our world, for peace and love as brothers and sisters in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bless, we pray this place, THE COREY ROOM. May it be a place of camaraderie, a place of friendship, a place of hospitality, a place of learning and a place of peace and love.

May all who visit this place find peace and love in each other's company.

**Amen**

## Picture Portrayal of Ernie's Story



Alex Reynolds perceived the need to have a simple graphic portrayal of Ernie's battle field actions in order to bring together a clearer understanding of Ernie's incredible achievements. Presumably Alex drew on his years of experience as a volunteer guide at the Australian War Memorial to lead him towards arranging the above framed story-board sequence of three images that individually or collectively tell the story of this soldier's war.

Firstly, Alex presented the official portrait of Private Ernie Corey at the time when first presented with a medal for bravery and on the verge of gaining recognition as an outstanding soldier. The second image shows the impressive collection of medals he received for bravery and service during his service life. Nobody before or since was honored with the award of a Military Medal on four different occasions.

The third image is a summary of how Ernie viewed his service as painted on his helmet. Through this method, Ernie speaks of the various campaigns, countries involved, units in which he served, various affiliations and dates. Details of the helmet story are set out on page 12 in Part One of this book.

The composite picture is mounted for display in the Corey Room but its impact and story-line has already travelled much further afield.

## The Corey Path to Greatness

In addition to portraying Ernie's battlefield actions in the manner described above, a need was recognised to present his story as a young country lad caught up in an unprecedented World War. In common with others in his age group, Ernie embarked on a military life and was confronted with dangers beyond belief.

The composition in this picture is to portray the journey of his life in a way that would be appealing to local people and could be understood one hundred years later.

A March towards Greatness tells the story of his simple upbringing in the Southern Highlands of NSW, not far from the yet to be named capital city of Australia. It suggests strong community support and a certain euphoria surrounding the enlistment and embarkation process before the young soldiers are subjected to the horrors of war. The initial experience was enough to turn Ernie's objective towards saving lives rather than taking them.

The medals are testimony to the fact that he served his country and his mates well during WWI. Furthermore, they record that he did re-enlist to carry on that role in WWII. Possibly through reasons of age and failing health he was unable to continue.

However, Ernie's love for Australia, in particular that part of the country where he grew up, brought him back to his roots where, after giving incredible service, he died and was buried in the Nation's Capital with full Military honours.

## Video Production

The virtual opening and dedication of THE COREY ROOM on Friday 15 May 2020 was filmed and recorded by David Jenkins of Ghetto Media. Copies are available through Woden Valley RSL and includes the address by the guest speaker, former Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson.

The video describes many features of the Corey Room and some of the pictures and artifacts referred to by other speakers. It is a valuable and complementary adjunct to this book.





## Curator

One outcome of the planning for The Corey Room concept was a growing realisation that more attention than before will need to be given to the contents, security, control and operation of the room than in the past. Most of the functions mentioned represented a normal headquarter responsibility but concerns were raised at the mounting number and value of exhibits and anticipated diversity and usage rates of the facility.

The Corey Room Team recommended that the Board of Management should consider that an appointment of a Curator be created and that a volunteer be invited to manage and account for the contents of collections, including the now growing collection of Corey items.

The recommendation was accepted and implemented with appropriate responsibilities and duty statements. The first Curator appointed was Anthony Johns, pictured at right. Anthony straight away re-organised the room in conjunction with headquarters' staff. The timing of this initiative was timely as it coincided with the introduction of more equipment and higher usage rates associated with veteran computer support training programs.



*Anthony John performing duties as MC at one of our Dinners at the Canberra Southern Cross Club.*

Peter Sutton meanwhile found some Acacia Medanoxlon, a timber commonly known as Black Wattle and possibly sourced from Ernie's home in Numeralla to burn in these signs. The timber could also have been that used in the first Australian made .303 rifles.



## **A Book about Ernie Corey**

The Corey Room Team recognized from the outset that the exceptional life lived by Ernie Corey could once again capture the imagination of all Australians if properly told.

As such, it could form the basis of a good book. Some research was done, particularly by Team Coordinator Mick O'Donnell in his capacity as a published author of five novels with more to come. We had to conclude that such a book would require a wider base of research than was readily available through military and RSL records. It would require a combination of research and writing skills beyond those available within the Sub-Branch. Nor were funds available to commission such a venture.

The solution chosen was to continue to remind members of Ernie's greatness through a series of articles in our widely distributed journal, *The Serviceman*. Team member, Bob Cremer, as editor enlisted the help of others to enhance the visibility of Ernie as a tribute to him. This move had a welcome and unexpected outcome.

## **Nichole Overall's Book**

An accomplished local writer, Nichole Overall, contacted Woden Valley RSL to follow up its connection with Ernie Corey. Unbeknownst to us, Nichole had been piecing together Cpl Corey's story since being awarded the prestigious Biennial Walter Stone Life Writing Award for 2018 by the Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW) for a work of "original, creative, literary excellence" with an Australian historical significance. We outlined our plans and provided her with access to our material, recognising that the wish of the Planning Team could be fulfilled if Nichole's book could be published. As yet untitled, it is aimed for publication in mid-2021.

While keeping Nichole informed of current progress, we were contacted by her fellow writer, Peter Hohnen, who not only wished to join our discussions, but also wanted to join the RSL and our Sub-Branch. Peter wrote a book about 10 years ago titled "The Wolf". Published in Australia, UK and the US, a book about a German naval raider with hidden weapons deployed on daring clandestine operations during the First World War. Peter plans to join the Woden Valley RSL in due course and hopes to monitor the progress of this project in the future.

Just before the 2020 Christmas close-down, Ernie Corey's Granddaughter Beverley and her husband Captain Richard Bayley RAN (Ret'd) were guests of the Sub-Branch during a familiarisation visit to the Corey Room. Details of this visit will be reported in *The Serviceman* in 2021, and no doubt Beverley's first-hand accounts of Ernie will be reflected in Nichole's book later in the year.



Nichole Overall a welcome visitor to the Corey Room with L to R: Greg Neyland (RAAF veteran), Peter Sutton (Navy veteran), Nichole, Bill Smith (Army veteran and Past President), Alan Frieslan (former NZ Infantry), Jim Gilchrist (former Army, and President of Woden Valley RSL) David Jenkins (Movie Producer), Padre Mick O'Donnell (Navy veteran, former AFP Chaplain and now Woden Valley RSL Chaplain).

## **The Corey Family**

In September 2020, Bob Cremer through a family member managed to make contact with 77 year old Elizabeth Corey of Maleny in Queensland. Elizabeth is a cousin of Ernie's and expressed appreciation for the efforts being made by the Sub-Branch to remember and celebrate Ernie Corey's life. In particular she expressed special thanks to Bill Smith and to the family of Alex Reynolds for their dedication in keeping "The Corey Story" alive.

Realising she would not be able to attend an official dedication in Canberra, she referred Bob Cremer to another family member, John Winterbottom, her cousin in Wagga Wagga who could possibly attend despite not being very well. Bob arranged for both of them to receive copies of *The Serviceman* containing details and photos of the Corey Project and dedication.

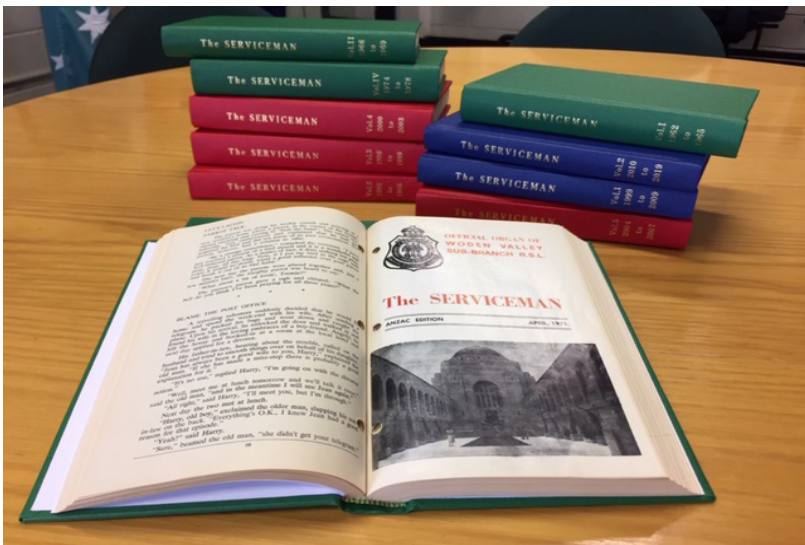
Both Elizabeth and cousin John were polio sufferers in their early days in Sydney making mobility an issue for them sometimes. Elizabeth and her mother were both able to attend the official dedication of the Corey Memorial Diorama in Cooma in 1996.

## Remembering Alex Reynolds

While this book has concentrated on the relationship that Alex had with honouring the life of Ernie Corey, he did much more. Alex devoted two terms to serving as the President of the Sub-Branch and many years as a member of the Board of Management responsible for a wide range of activities. Always active and helpful, his reports and articles abound and are spread over more than one dozen editions of The Serviceman.

Bill Smith with the assistance of the Editor of The Serviceman, Bob Cremer, assembled all issues of The Serviceman from its inception in 1962 until the Xmas Edition in December 2019 and had them bound into a total of fifteen volumes comprising over 150 editions. The collection, part of which is shown below, complete with a separate comprehensive index, was then donated by Bill and Bob to the Woden Valley RSL library to provide a comprehensive record of the lived history of the Sub-Branch.

Each volume was dedicated to an outstanding member of the Sub-Branch at around the time covered by that particular volume. Volume 4, which contains all editions from the years 2000 to 2003 is dedicated to Alex. He approved the wording of the dedication but unfortunately passed away at the time “his” volume was being bound.



## Launch and Dedication of the Video

Late in 2020 the Sub-Branch expanded its lease within the Grant Cameron offices to include a training room for veterans' computer training classes. This also created an opportunity for a greater number of members to meet under virus restricted conditions and led to a way to enable members to view The Corey Room Opening video.

As a result, the official launch of The Corey Room video was held on 27 Oct 2020 at the Grant Cameron Centre. Included in the ceremony, the video was dedicated to the memory of former Sub-Branch President, the late Alex Reynolds in recognition of the many years he devoted to the full recognition of Corporal Corey. The ceremony was well attended and the video received with enthusiasm. However, as this was intended to be the final event to be reported in this book before publication, readers and researchers are invited to pursue further accounts of the ceremony in The Serviceman and Enews of that time.

It is appropriate to congratulate all those people who supported the aim to enhance the visibility of Ernie Corey as one of Australia's great heroes. The photo below includes some supporters on this occasion.



*David Jenkins (Film Producer), Nichole Overall (Author), Bill Smith (Team Member),  
Anthony John (Curator), Chaplain Mick O'Donnell (Team Leader) and  
Peter Sutton (Team member)*

## Dedication of “The Corey Papers”

The Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch joins friends and the family of Alex Reynolds in dedicating this book *“The Corey Papers”* to the honour and memory of Alex, shown below receiving the 2013 Australia Day Medallion from ACT RSL Branch President, Mr John King.



## Special Mention

Sincere thanks to Jim Gilchrist, President of the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch for his initiation, dedication and direction in the Corey Room Project.

Thanks also to all members of the Board of Management for their support in bringing the 30-year gestation period of the Corey Recognition project to fruition.

The year 2020 baseline set out in this collection now becomes a challenge for all future RSL members and administrations to continue.



## Afterword



### **An Ernie Corey led Challenge for the Future**

A central theme in this book, The Corey Papers, has been the uncertainties associated with so many damaging circumstances that took place and had to be overcome during the year 2020. The tragedies included record-breaking drought, bushfires, floods and a Covid-19 pandemic. The final assault of the year was that Australian beliefs were shattered in the November week following Remembrance Day. The date coincided with this book due to be printed, bound and assigned as a research tool before the year was to end. The “assault” concerned the release of a report of a four-year investigation by the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force which found credible evidence of 23 past incidents in which a total of 39 Afghan Nationals were unlawfully killed by our specialist forces. It is expected that the complexity of the charges that are totally at odds with the values, beliefs and practices of our military forces will undermine the nation’s self-confidence for many years to come while the offenders are being tried and, where appropriate, penalised.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has already pleaded for the community not to judge all veterans by the unlawful few. Reputations of brave and courageous soldiers must not be tarnished by unsubstantiated stories of association with wrongdoers. Those who gave their lives in the service of this nation deserve a better reward.

As a buffer against a wave of anticipated disappointment in our current heroes (unfair to most) being allowed to spread to those of unrelated past or present wars, the Corey Room Team advised Woden Valley RSL to recommend action at national level to give past heroes more visibility in ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies. The media must be encouraged to counter-balance essential reporting on the horrendous Afghanistan failings with stories of heroes like Ernie Corey MM&3Bars.

An example follows on the following page.





Ernie Corey in a nursing home in Queanbeyan in 1970, with student nurse, Caroline Hermion and WO1 Reg Collison BEM

## Ernie Corey: A true local hero

### Obituary

It is a sad and solemn occasion. Ernie Corey, one of the Anzac boys who served in the Gallipoli campaign, has died aged 95. He was born in the town of Mullumbidgee in the Murrumbidgee valley, south of the Murrumbidgee river, on 10 January 1915.

During the campaign, he showed courage and bravery, and was awarded the Military Medal for his actions during the Gallipoli campaign. He was discharged from the army in 1918 and returned to his home town of Mullumbidgee.

He lived in Mullumbidgee until his death in 2010. He was a true local hero and his memory should be kept alive.



A portrait of Ernie Corey

Ernie Corey was a true local hero. He served in the Gallipoli campaign and was awarded the Military Medal for his actions during the Gallipoli campaign. He was discharged from the army in 1918 and returned to his home town of Mullumbidgee.

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The Corey Room Team effort managed to have this article published in the Canberra Times on 21 Nov 2020. The article became a lone voice reminding that we still have our true heroes who are worthy of respect. We complimented the Canberra Times on its timing and placement of the story on a day when all other news and comment was rightly directed towards Australian soldiers who let down themselves, our country and traditions.

Our comment included advice that this could be an example of the first step in a “push-back” against inevitable poor press that needed to be generated by outcomes of the Paul Bereton four-year investigation. It is a fair process that must not be impeded. However, we are reminded that care must be taken to ensure the community is not robbed of its true heroes during the process.

Indeed, their sacrifices should not be tarnished by fanciful notions of "group culture". The placement of this article proclaiming a man who “did not fire an angry shot while saving so many lives in the face of the enemy” was, on this day, a good example of the balance required in reporting when leading stories were also discussing well-based allegations that other soldiers in Afghanistan were linked with large scale murder.

In this way those disturbed by the application of the criminal justice system, or more particularly those in the fracture zone of that process, may gain strength from reassuring stories like those of Ernie Corey that neither the Army, or the Nation, is to lose their true heroes.

*Photo above of Ernie Corey in a nursing home in Queanbeyan on ANZAC Day around 1970 with student nurse, Caroline Hermion and WO1 Reg Collison BEM. Printed in the Canberra Times (Panorama History) Sat 21 Nov 2020, courtest of Sally Pryor.*



**COMMEMORATING THOSE AUSTRALIANS WHO FOUGHT AND DIED DURING AUSTRALIA'S FIRST ATTACK IN FRANCE AT THE BATTLE OF FROMELLES - 19-23 JUL 1916.**

**OPENED BY AUSTRALIA'S MINISTER FOR VETERAN AFFAIRS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE ON 5 JUL 1991.**

*Ernie Corey left home in Sep 1916 and fought in the second attack here.*

## *The Corey Room Team*



***The Corey Room Team*** responsible for the eventual dedication of **The Corey Room** to local Hero, **Ernest Albert Corey MM & 3 Bars**.

At rear, Anthony John (AJ), and Sub-Branch Chaplain Mick O'Donnell and in front Bob Cremer, Bill Smith and Peter Sutton. Another team member is writer/producer of the Corey Video, David Jenkins (Ghetto Media) who did a fantastic job in producing/editing the Corey video as part of the Sub-Branch historic records. (See David's photo Page 55).