

AWM 93

AUSTRALIAN WAR M  
ACCESS STATUS  
OPEN



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

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Home and Territories Department.

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FILE OF PAPERS.

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SUBJECT:

*H. W. Gaby Esq.*

*Nabaguna.*

*Tasmania.*

12/11/183

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS COVER.

10/11/1935

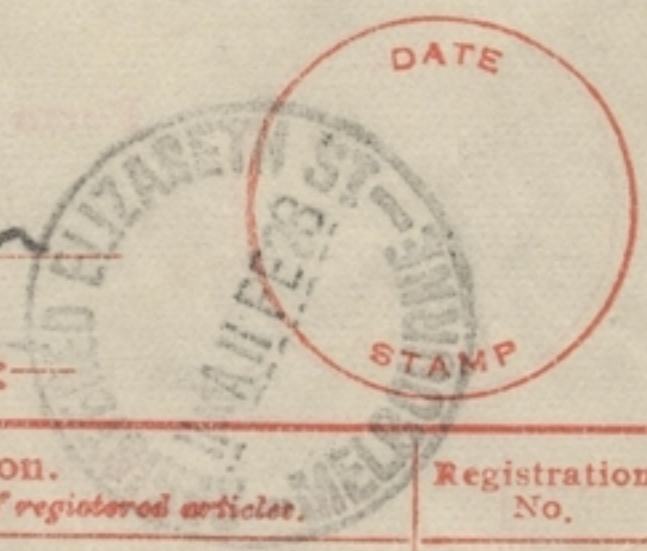
Form R2.

DUPLICATE

Received from Armed War Museum

Perth

articles for Registration as follows:—



No.	Surname of Addressee and Office of Destination. <small>This receipt must be presented should inquiry be made concerning delivery of registered articles.</small>	Registration No.
1	De Gaby. Hyabing. wa. 5882	
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Signature of Receiving Officer

*[Handwritten signature]*

EF/MR

12/11/183

10th February, 1928.

Mr. E. A. Gaby,  
NYABING. W.A.

Dear Sir,

The letters you so kindly made available to the War Memorial for copying are being returned under separate cover.

The Board of Management have asked me to convey to you their grateful thanks for the assistance you have rendered in making these records available.

Yours faithfully,

  
Acting Director.

*File*  
*17*  
*10.2.28*

12/11/183

23rd November, 1927.

Mr. E. A. Gaby,  
NYABING.  
Western Australia.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th instant enclosing a number of letters and official records received from your brother, the late Lieutenant A. E. Gaby, V.C. The letters will be examined and where necessary extracts taken and the originals returned to you with the least possible delay.

Again many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

*Trappell*  
Acting Director.

Mr. McAllan.

For information and necessary action.

*Trappell*  
A/Director.

*Copied. 181.1  
Hmea  
8/2/28.*



Nyabing N.A.  
Nov 12/1927

Director  
Aus War Memorial

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter regarding the records of my Bro A. E. Gaby V.C.

I have a number of his personal letters to me & copies of official records which I am enclosing herewith. You may select a copy anything you may consider suitable, but the originals must be returned to me.

In the Katanning Town Hall the Ret. Soldiers Assn. have hung a splendid memorial in the form a V.C. in Bronze mounted on polished Jarrak. I have asked the local photographer to obtain a picture of this for me & I will send you copy. My Brothers V.C. is

in I my elder Bro possession. His  
address is R/W Gaby, Irish Town, N.W. Coast  
Tasmania. To whom you might apply  
for further records. I do not  
suggest that the VC medal should be  
given to the War Memorial. In my  
opinion it should remain a family  
heirloom as long as possible.

Yours Truly

C. A. Gaby

12/11/183

4th November, 1927.

Mr. E. A. Gaby,  
Nyabing,  
Western Australia.

Dear Sir,

The Board of Management of the Australian War Memorial would greatly appreciate the favour of an early reply to this office letter of the 11th August relative to the war records of your gallant brother, the late Lieut. A. E. Gaby, V.C.

Yours faithfully,

*T. J. Pappin*  
Acting Director.

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4. 12. 27  
17

12/11/183


3rd October, 1927.

Mr. E. A. Gaby,  
Nyabing,  
Western Australia.

Dear Sir,

The favor of an early reply to this office letter of the 11th August, relative to the war records of your gallant brother, the late Alfred Edward Gaby, V.C., will be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

  
Acting Director.



12/11/183

11th August, 1927.

Mr. E. A. Gaby,  
Hyabing,  
Western Australia.

Dear Sir,

The Australian War Memorial Museum, containing as it does the written records, the pictures, and the relics of Australia's forces which served in the Great War, has, as you are probably aware, been established by Act of Parliament of the Commonwealth as the national memorial to those who fell or died in this country's service during that struggle. A certain portion of these records, comprising pictures, official photographs, models, and relics, have been exhibited in Melbourne and Sydney for the last five years, but the whole will later be brought together and permanently housed at Canberra in a monumental building, plans for which are now being determined.

In the library of the "War Museum" there are preserved the written records - that is to say, the war-diaries of the A.I.F. as they were written up from day to day in the field, the signal messages written in battle, the correspondence files, maps, air-photographs, naval records, and other official documents, as well as copies of most books or publications of both sides which touch or have a direct bearing on the work of the Australian forces, newspaper files for the years 1914-1918, and a number of private diaries and letters - all of which are now being used by the official historians, and will through the coming centuries be the main source of information for students and for those writing of Australia's war-effort.

Many living officers and men have given their private war-records into the custody of the Memorial library, and the collection is still growing week by week. But in respect of the records of those who died, it is not sufficiently representative; and, as these are the men and women to whom the War Memorial is dedicated and whose great service it will for all time commemorate, it is especially fitting that every effort should be made to collect and

BF 21/9.

and worthily preserve their papers and letters. The Australian soldier and sailor frequently recorded in his diary or in his home-letters indications of the thoughts, hopes, and fears which were then uppermost in his mind, and descriptions of his own and others' work and actions. These papers are often the most valuable human documents, bearing evidence of supreme effort and endurance in circumstances of which, unfortunately, there is in many cases nowadays practically no other existing record. It is apparent, from the letters and diaries which have already come into the keeping of the War Memorial library, that in many homes there must exist numerous letters and other papers which would form data of importance and value.

It has therefore been decided to ask the relatives of some of those who gave their lives if they would kindly agree to present to the War Memorial library now, or bequeath to it later, any such documents in their possession. For this reason I am writing to inquire whether you can see your way to contribute to the Memorial the letters received from your gallant brother, the late Alfred Edward Gaby, V.C., during the whole of his service with the A.I.F., or any other relevant papers, diaries, maps, photographs, etc. It is of course recognized that these documents are very precious to you, being in the nature of cherished heirlooms which, if kept in your family, cannot fail to inspire future generations of Australians with a spirit of devotion and self-sacrifice and a determination also to serve their country well. On the other hand it may perhaps be reasonably held that, if included in a library such as the one being formed by the Australian War Memorial, they will be of even greater value to Australia as a whole, and, in the long run, more tenderly and carefully preserved.

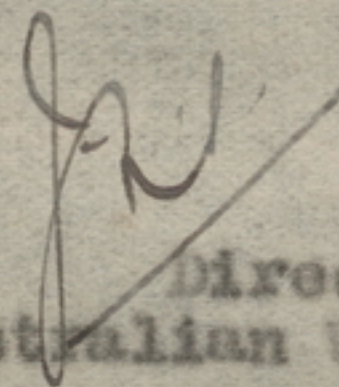
In the case of letters it is also realized that they must contain much of a private and family nature. The documents in the War Memorial, however, include many confidential State papers, and are well guarded, and only to be inspected by historians on conditions strictly laid down. The confidence imposed by these conditions has never been and is never likely to be broken.

If you decide that you are unable to part with these private records, at least for the present, might I suggest that you will be good enough to allow the War Memorial library to copy or to make extracts from them? In that case all care will be taken of them, and they shall be returned to you either separately or together, as you wish, as soon as the work of copying them has been completed.

In addition, you may know of interesting letters written by your brother to others of his relations or friends, and possibly still preserved, which might suitably find a place in the War Memorial collection. The War Memorial Board would be grateful if you would assist it by sending to me the names and

addresses of any friends who would be likely to present such letters.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. W.', written over the typed name.

Director,  
Australian War Memorial.

12/11/183

10th August, 1927.

Mr. R. W. Gaby,  
Nabaguna,  
Tasmania.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Australian War Memorial I have to acknowledge with grateful thanks receipt of your letter of the 3rd August relative to the records of your gallant brother, the late Lieutenant A. E. Gaby, V.C.

From this it is noted with great regret that you have no records which you can make available for inclusion in the national collections.

I am indebted to you for having suggested that your brother in West Australia may be in a position to supply such records. An invitation to him to present such records in his possession, is being forwarded.

May I add that the sympathetic manner in which you have received the appeal for records made in my letter of the 23rd May, is greatly appreciated by those who are responsible for the Australian War Memorial.

Yours faithfully,

Director.

Mr. Bazley.

For information.

The address of the brother mentioned by Mr. Gaby is :-

E. A. Gaby,  
Nyabing,  
West Australia.

The letter inviting him to present records in his possession will be sent from this office.

Director.

No 12/11/183



22/7/27  
Nabajeema  
Yas

Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1927

To the Director  
Australian War Memorial

Dear Sir.

In reply  
to yours of June 27<sup>th</sup> I regret to  
say that I have no correspondance  
from my late brother. Lieutenant  
A. E. Gaby, V. C. that would be  
of any value to the war records,  
but it is quite possible that  
my brother Ernest Alfred Gaby of  
"Nyabing West Australia" would be  
able to let you have some.

Yours faithfully  
R. W. Gaby

12/11/183

27th June, 1927.

R. W. Gaby, Esq.,  
Nabaguna,  
Tasmania.

Dear Sir,

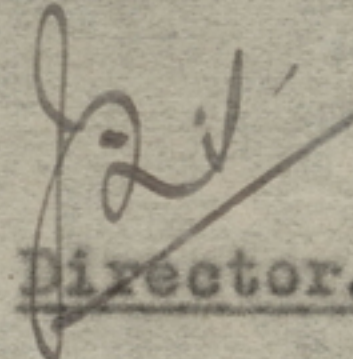
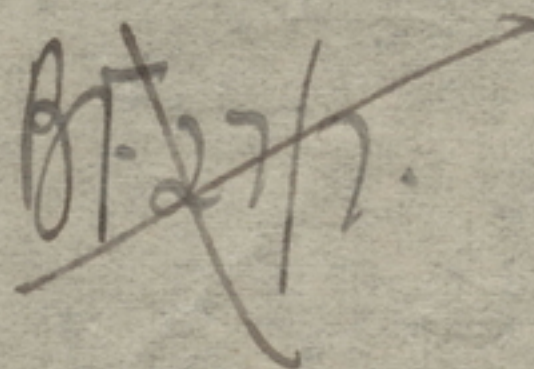
In a letter dated 23rd May I ventured to enquire if you would assist in completing the national collections of war records by presenting the letters or any other relevant papers, diaries, maps, photographs, etc. received by you from your gallant brother, the late Alfred Edward Gaby, V.C., or alternatively by making them available in order that copies may be made. You were also invited to mention the names (and addresses, if known) of others to whom your brother may have written.

Each week private war records of this nature are being received by the War Memorial. In many cases the relatives send them with diffidence as they feel that as they describe in personal terms the experiences of the soldier by whom they were compiled, they must be of little value. But almost invariably it is found that their historical value is great, especially when they are read in conjunction with the official records in the possession of the Memorial.

The record of your brother suggests that his letters etc. would be of special value and it is therefore earnestly hoped that you will reply favourably to the War Memorial's appeal. By making his records available, you will be doing much to assist Australian historians to accord his war services the recognition they deserve - an object which must be very dear to you.

It will be appreciated if you will kindly favour me with a reply, even if you are unable to agree to the request for records made by me on behalf of the War Memorial.

Yours faithfully,

  
Director.

12/11/183

23 May 1927.

R.W. Gaby, Esq.,  
Nabaguna,  
Tasmania.

Dear Sir,

The Australian War Memorial Museum, containing as it does the written records, the pictures, and the relics of Australia's forces which served in the Great War, has, as you are probably aware, been established by Act of Parliament of the Commonwealth as the national memorial to those who fell or died in this country's service during that struggle. A certain portion of these records, comprizing pictures, official photographs, models, and relics, have been exhibited in Melbourne and Sydney for the last five years, but the whole will later be brought together and permanently housed at Canberra in a monumental building, plans for which are now being determined.

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photographs, etc. It is of course recognized that these documents are very precious to you, being in the nature of cherished heirloom which, if kept in your family, cannot fail to inspire future generations of Australians with a spirit of devotion and self-sacrifice and a determination also to serve their country well. On the other hand it may perhaps be reasonably held that, if included in a library such as the one being formed by the Australian War Memorial, they will be of even greater value to Australia as a whole, and, in the long run, more tenderly and carefully preserved.

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In addition, you may know of interesting letters written by your brother to others of his relations or friends, and possibly still preserved, which might suitably find a place in the War Memorial collection. The War Memorial Board would be grateful if you would assist it by sending to me the names and addresses of any friends who would be likely to present such letters.

Yours faithfully,

Director,  
Australian War Memorial.

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Letter sent in respect of Lieutenant A.E. Gaby, V.C., 28th Battalion, A.I.F., who on 11 August 1918 was killed in action east of Framerville, near Amiens. Other biographical details concerning him are: farmer; of Scottsdale, Tasmania; born Springfield, Scottsdale; educated at Jetsonville and Scottsdale state schools, Tas.; age at time of death, 26 years 7 months; V.C. awarded posthumously.