

Headstone Rededication



5762 Corporal Harry Stanley Cochrane
14th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force



Crucifix Corner Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux
France

10.30am Thursday 7 July 2022

Historical Background

In early 1918, as a result of the capitulation of Russia, the Germans began concentrating the bulk of their forces on the Western Front. Over the space of four months, up to 48 divisions were moved to the west.^[1] Concentrating their efforts on the Somme Valley, the Germans launched a major offensive - the Spring Offensive - against the British southern flank on 21 March.^[2] After pushing the Allies back towards the railhead at Amiens, the German advance in the sector was checked around Villers-Bretonneux in early April. As the German offensive exhausted itself, in June the Allies began to prepare for their own offensive, conducting a series of small-scale advances which became known as "peaceful penetrations".^[3]

After the initial application of this technique around Morlancourt during the First, Second, and Third Battles of Morlancourt, the commander of the British Fourth Army, Lieutenant General Henry Rawlinson, decided that the next strike would come at the village of Le Hamel, Somme.^[4] The German advance earlier in the year had created a "bulge" in the front line around the village, which had created a salient that exposed Allied troops in the sector to enfilading fire and enabled the Germans to observe Allied rear areas.^[5] Capturing the village would help set an "aggressive posture" and relieve pressure in the sector. Lieutenant General John Monash, commander of the Australian Corps, was chosen to plan the attack.

Under the direction of Lieutenant General Sir John Monash, the newly appointed commander of the Australian Corps, all assaulting units involved took their objectives in just 93 minutes. With infantry, armour, artillery and air assets at his disposal, Monash had the good fortune of commanding a recognisably modern integrated weapons system that characterised much of the fighting during the final allied campaigns on the Western Front. In his post-war account, Monash likened this all-arms battle to a symphony for which he had been conductor.

On the day of the Battle of Hamel, the 14th Bn was appointed as the Bn reserve, carrying Bn where they were required to carry forward supply dumps. Upon completion of carrying forward the supplies the 14th Bn was then ordered to become the support Bn until the final objective was established.

Just after dawn on the 4th July 1918, Corporal Cochrane was killed and initially buried in a grave near Vaire Wood. However, was later buried in Crucifix Corner Cemetery as an Unknown Australian Soldier.

Order of Service

Arrival of the Official Party

Arrival of the Official Party

Welcome

Master of Ceremonies – Major Cameron Clarke – Australian Army

Opening Prayer

Australian Army Chaplain – Major Frank Langford

We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good; whose power sustains the world he has made; who loves us, though we have failed in his service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world; who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way.

As we give thanks for his great works, we remember those who have lived and died in his service and in the service of others; we pray for all who suffer through war and are in need; we ask for his help and blessing that we may do his will, and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King.

All: Hear our prayer

Reading – *Ms Nina Richardson*

Official Wreath Laying

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• 5762 Corporal Harry Stanley Cochrane, 14th Battalion
Australian Imperial Force, Killed in Action 4 July 1918.

Ode of Remembrance

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

All: We will remember them

The Last Post

A Minute's Silence

Rouse

Bugler – Lance Corporal Aaron Pasfield – Australian Army

National Anthem

The National Anthem of Australia will now be sung.

Final Blessing

Major Frank Langford

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Farewell and Conclusion

Record of Service Extract

13 Mar 16	Enlisted Australian Imperial Force
4 May 16	Embarked Melbourne, Australia
30 Oct 16	Marched In - base depot Etaples, France
30 Oct 16	Allocated to 14th Battalion
5 Nov 16	Joined 14th Battalion in the field
5 Feb 17	Wounded in Action, septic foot
10 Feb 17	Transferred to Norfolk War Hospital
3 Dec 17	Re-joined 14th Battalion
20 Feb 18	Promoted to Lance Corporal
20 May 18	Promoted to Corporal
4 Jul 18	Killed in Action near Vaire Wood

Awards and Decorations



British War Medal

Victory Medal