

FROM BARBED WIRE



BOUNDARY FENCES

The soldier settlers of Tarcutta & Wantabadgery
1917-1949



EDUCATION KIT - SECONDARY

The exhibition *From barbed wire to boundary fences* documents the moving stories of hope, hardship and humour amidst the changing rural landscape of post-war Wagga Wagga, as seen through the eyes of the men, women and children who began new lives on the soldier settlement estates at Tarcutta and Wantabadgery (East and West).

Developed for secondary students, this education kit is a resource to be used in conjunction with the exhibition – either during an on-site visit, or in the classroom (before or after a visit).

This exhibition presents students with a wealth of information about post and interwar Australia (focusing on the Riverina region) and explores aspects of what life was like for the soldier settler, the women in his life (including wives and mothers) and their children.

Students will gain an appreciation for both the challenges overcome, and accomplishments achieved by these battle-weary soldiers-turned-farmers in the first half of the 20th century, and discover the role they played in shaping the landscape in which we live.

This kit focuses on two subject areas – History and Food Technology.

CURRICULUM: HISTORY

STAGE 5 CORE STUDY – Depth Study 3: Australians at War: World Wars I and II (1914-1918, 1939-1945)

Depth Study 6 – School Developed topic from either of the Stage 5 overviews

Outcomes

A student:

- HT5-1 explains and assesses the historical forces and factors that shaped the modern world and Australia
- HT5-5 identifies and evaluates the usefulness of sources in the historical enquiry process
- HT5-6 uses relevant evidence from sources to support historical narratives, explanations and analyses the modern world and Australia
- HT5-9 applies a range of relevant historical terms and concepts when communicating an understanding of the past



ACTIVITY ONE

Hidden history in David Low's cartoon *Repatriation*

In the *Bulletin* of 23 January 1919, a cartoonist called David Low penned a front-page cartoon titled *Repatriation*.

Sir David Alexander Cecil Low (1891 – 1963) was a New Zealand born cartoonist who worked alongside the likes of Sir Norman Lindsay, at the Sydney *Bulletin*.

During World War I and in the period immediately following, Low produced illustrations, cartoons and caricatures for the *Bulletin* and other publications of the period.

***Repatriation* is displayed within the exhibition space, so this activity could be conducted during an on-site visit.**

Alternately, it could be conducted within the classroom, by substituting Low's cartoon for that of William Blomfield, titled *Settling the Returned Soldier*.

INSTRUCTIONS

Together as a class, or in small groups, take a closer look at this cartoon, and try to uncover what message the cartoonist was putting across.

The following questions are a guide:

- **Describe** what you see in the cartoon –
 - Who are the two people depicted?
 - What does the scene show?
 - What do you think is the meaning of the cartoon?
 - Why do you think it is significant in the context of events happening at the time?

- What do you think this cartoon says about the artist's attitude towards the treatment of soldier settlers?
 - What evidence can you see in the cartoon that supports your view?

- What sort of **historical evidence** does this cartoon provide – **primary** or **secondary**?
 - What is the difference between primary and secondary evidence?

- Is this cartoon a good piece of evidence for the living conditions of soldier settlers?
Explain your reasons.

- What **primary evidence** can you find which supports the scenario shown in this cartoon?
 - What **secondary evidence** can you find?
 - or*
 - Is there **evidence** that suggests the view of the cartoonist was incorrect or biased?



Below, is an illustration by William Blomfield, titled **Settling the Returned Soldier**. It was published on the front page of The New Zealand Observer on 9 June 1917.

William Blomfield was an illustrator, who signed his work 'Blo'. He produced vivid, sometimes controversial cartoons for the *Observer* for fifty one years.

- **Compare** this cartoon with David Low's *Repatriation*.
 - What does Blomfield's cartoon show?
 - What does the sign on the tree say?

- Can you see any similarities between this cartoon and *Repatriation*?

- Do you think this shows New Zealand soldier settlers as living in better conditions than their Australian counterparts?



- Draw your own cartoon or caricature based on a soldier settler's story or experience.

THE NEW ZEALAND OBSERVER

AN ILLUSTRATED JOURNAL OF INTERESTING AND
AMUSING LITERATURE.

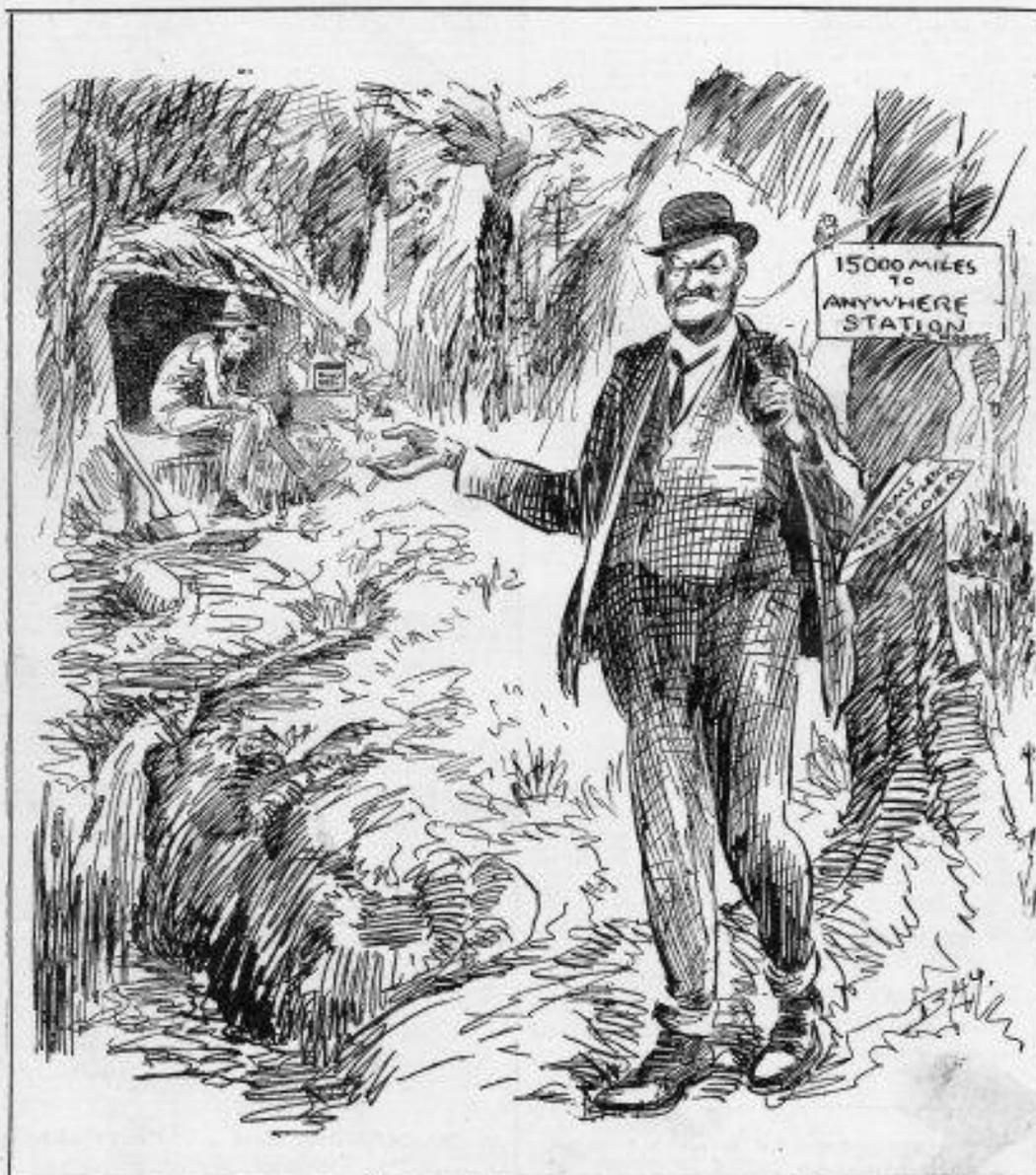
Smart, but not vulgar; fearless, but not offensive; independent, but not neutral; unsectarian, but not irreligious.

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Vol. XXXVII.—No. 40.]

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1917.

[THREEPENCE



SETTLING THE RETURNED SOLDIER.

The Department: Oh, he's nice and comfortable—dugout and all. Just about settle him, eh?

Above: William Blomfield's 1917 cartoon

Reproduced with kind permission Alexander Turnbull Library, New Zealand

ACTIVITY ONE ANSWERS

Who is this?



What does the sign say?

What is this?

Who is this?

What is the caption?

▪ Describe what you see in the cartoon –

Who are the two people depicted?

A returned serviceman (soldier settler) and James Allen, the New Zealand Minister of Defence

What does the scene show?

At the back of the cartoon is a soldier settler, who sits slumped in a home-made shelter in the bush. There is an axe leaning next to him, which he may have been using to clear his block – hard, backbreaking work. He looks like he is tired and almost defeated in his body language.

The gentleman depicted at the front is James Allen, the New Zealand Minister of Defence during World War I. He has a folded paper in his pocket which reads 'FARMS FOR SETTLER SOLDIERS'. He is gesturing towards the soldier, and saying (in the caption) *Oh, he's nice and comfortable – dugout and all.*

Behind Allen, a sign nailed to the tree reads '15,000 Miles to Anywhere Station', which is the name of the soldier's property.

Allen's demeanour and that of the soldier are direct contrasts. While the soldier looks deflated and hopeless, Allen has an air of confidence about him, much like a salesman. Their clothes are also obvious contrasts – the soldier is dressed like a farmer and Allen looks like a well dressed man about town.

What do you think is the meaning of this cartoon?

The artist appears to be making a comment on the treatment of the returned servicemen who became soldier settlers, and the situation they found themselves in because of the type of land they were given (their reward for fighting for their country).

The 'Department' is personified by Minister of Defence James Allen, who stands in the foreground and is dismissive of the soldier settler. Although the settler is living in poor conditions '15,000 miles to anywhere', the Minister insists that the veteran is 'nice and comfortable'.

Why do you think it is significant in the context of events happening at the time?

The soldier settlement scheme was established during World War I, with South Australia the first state to enact legislation, in 1915. In NSW the State Government introduced the **Returned Soldiers Settlement Act** in 1916. In the period October 1916 – June 1917, twelve soldier settlement estates were created.

The World War I soldier settlement schemes were largely considered to be a failure. This was for a number of reasons:

- Servicemen who were inexperienced in farming were selected
- The blocks were too small to make a living – leading to significant hardships
- The settlers didn't have enough capital (finances)
- Prices received for goods were too low, especially during the Depression
- Some settlers were dealing with physical and mental handicaps

What do you think this cartoon says about the artist's attitude towards the treatment of soldier settlers?

This cartoon, drawn in the early stages of World War I soldier settlement suggests that the artist (William Blomfield) was sympathetic to the plight of the returned soldier. Many soldier settlement estates (here, in New Zealand, and even countries like Canada) were both remote and uneconomic (i.e. not arable land).

What evidence can you see in the cartoon that supports your view?

The evidence includes:

- The sad looking soldier settler and his air of defeat and hopelessness
- The sign on the tree
- The stance of the Minister of Defence, James Allen
- The lack of personal possessions and home surrounding the soldier settler

What sort of historical evidence does this cartoon provide?

The cartoon is **Primary** evidence, because it dates to the same period as soldier settlement (World War I) and shows how somebody living at that time felt about the situation.

Primary sources are original materials that have not been altered or distorted in any way. Examples include: an artefact, a document, a recording or other source of information (including drawings and cartoons) that was created at the time being researched. A primary source serves as an original source of information about the topic.

Secondary sources build upon a primary source. Generally, they cite, comment on or are written after the fact, with the benefit of hindsight.

Is this cartoon a good piece of evidence for the living conditions of soldier settlers?

Yes and no. While the cartoon provides hints about the living condition of soldier settlers in NZ during World War I, without further research it is impossible to know whether this was indicative of the scheme in NZ, or if it was also happening in other countries with this type of resettlement.

What primary evidence can you find which supports the scenario shown in this cartoon?

In the March 6, 1918 edition of the Grain Grower's Guide (Canada) published an illustration which is reproduced below. Here, a Returned Soldier is being directed away from the '30,000,000 acres of fertile and idle land held by Graball & Co.' out towards '160 acres of free land only 100 miles from civilization.' The fertile farming land is surrounded by a high fence topped with spikes, which is reminiscent of a prison wall.

This cartoon shows that soldier settlers in Canada were given a rough deal, much like those in New Zealand and Australia.



Other primary evidence of the soldier settlers' lifestyle and living conditions can be found in:

- Newspaper clippings (at libraries or on sites like Trove)
- Soldier settlement land records (state archives)
- Oral histories
- Personal written records and in
- Publications of the day

What secondary evidence can you find?

Secondary evidence includes:

- Websites (for e.g. *A Land Fit for Heroes?*)
- Academic papers (student theses)
- Books (for e.g. *Here Comes the Bailiff!* By Doris Cheesbrough)
- Museum collections, displays and exhibitions
- Books, journals and papers found in Archives and Libraries

ACTIVITY TWO

Luck of the Draw: post-WWI soldier settlement in the Wagga District



INSTRUCTIONS

View the animated film *Luck of the Draw: Soldier settlement after World War I in the Wagga Wagga District* and answer the following questions, either in the exhibition space, or back in the classroom.



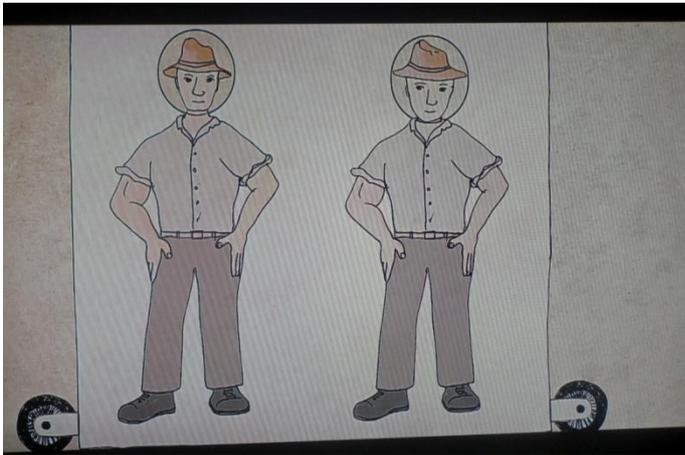
Luck of the Draw

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcEBWGLXyTM>

- What does the animation show?
- How did the soldiers in this animation receive their block of land?
- Can you find the related object(s) in the exhibition space?
- What were some of the problems that these soldier settlers faced?



▪ Carefully examine the scene in the film that shows two returned servicemen who have applied to become soldier settlers. The one on the left of screen has only one leg. The one on the right has only one arm. As you watch, a screen rolls across and hides their bodies.



- On the screenshot above, the men's broken bodies have been replaced by those of fit, strong men. What do you think the film maker was saying in this scene?
- What **war related health problems** did Tarcutta's soldier settlers face?
 - How did injury and illness affect their success as farmers?
- What **impact** did the global economy have on the post-WWI soldier settlers?
 - Why do you think so many of Tarcutta's settlers left during the Great Depression?
- Why do you think that **community** was so important to the soldier settlers and their families?



ACTIVITY TWO ANSWERS

What does the animation show?

The animation *Luck of the Draw* tells the story of soldier settlement in the Wagga Land District after World War I. It charts the journey of the soldier settler from enlistment through to becoming a settler.

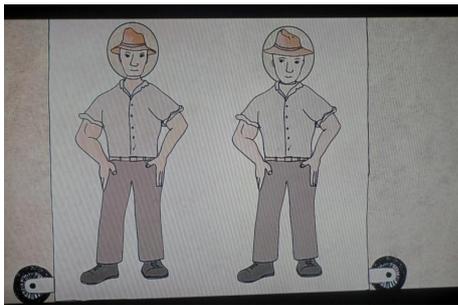
How did the soldiers in this animation receive their block of land?

The soldiers in the film received their block of land through the ballot system. The ballot system was a little like the lottery. The ballot box was filled with numbered balls called marbles, and each returned serviceman that applied for land was given a corresponding number. For each block, marbles were put in the box and drawn out one at a time. If your number was drawn, you won the block of land on offer.

Can you find the related object(s) in the exhibition space?

There are two original Lands Department ballot boxes displayed in the exhibition space. One is small, the other large. The small one has three wooden marbles sitting in front of it. The large box is displayed on top of one of the display cases.

What do you think the film maker is saying in this scene?



The film maker is showing that the soldier settlers of post-WWI often came home with injuries and illnesses that made them unsuitable for life on the land. In order to get a block of land, returned servicemen often hid their problems, and sometimes, the Lands Department ignored them.

What were some of the problems that these soldier settlers faced?

- Blocks too small
- No improvements had been made to the land
- Isolation
- War related health problems
- Unrealistic expectations
- Rabbits
- Unsuitable land
- Lack of capital (money)
- Lack of experience

How did injury and illness affect their success as farmers?

Farming was a very hard job, and men carrying war related health problems were often not up to the challenge. A percentage of the men that settled on the Tarcutta Estate had been invalided out of the army (discharged for medical reasons). This meant that they were not physically (and sometimes emotionally) capable of fighting, and, as it turns out, many were not suited for the hard life lived by a farmer.

What impact did the global economy have on the post-WWI soldier settlers?

After World War I, the Australian Government hoped that soldier settlers would be able to grow produce that could then be exported to the British market, which would benefit both countries.

By 1929 the world economy began to slow, and rural product prices were falling. As a result, farmers had difficulty selling their produce overseas. When the stock market crashed in America on 24 October 1929, the resulting economic downturn impacted on countries all over the world, including Australia and Great Britain.

Why do you think so many of Tarcutta's settlers left during the Great Depression?

With nobody to buy their produce, the farmers themselves could not afford to repay their loans, so many had no choice but to walk off their land.

Why do you think that community was so important to the soldier settlers and their families?

The reason that the post-WWI soldier settlement estates at Wantabadgery were such a success was that the soldier settlers and their families formed strong communities.

Living and operating as a community meant that soldier settlers were not trying to survive on the land, and operate their farms in isolation. This was particularly important for settlers that had ongoing war-related health problems, or settler's wives that were from the city and struggled to adjust to their new rural lives.

Bonds formed between settlers and their families could sometimes mean the difference between success or failure. The later settlers on Wantabadgery all lent support to each other. If an ex-serviceman had to spend time in hospital (due to war injuries) other settlers stepped in to help where they could, to ensure that his farm stayed productive.

ACTIVITY THREE

What can newspapers tell us about soldier settlement?

Newspapers of the time can reveal a wealth of information about the life of a soldier settler.

Below, is an article from The Farmer and Settler (Sydney), 21 February 1935:

SOLDIER'S FIGHT REWARDED

Tarcutta Settler Started with Thirteen Cows and Now has Ninety-five

PRAISE FOR MILKING MACHINES

WHEN the Tarcutta Soldiers' Settlement was established in 1918, thirty-eight men sought to make a living from dairying. Time is a great tester—it brings success to the competent and banishes the unfit. Thus, only seven of the original soldier settlers are at Tarcutta. The rest have found other forms of livelihood, and new men have taken their place, with the result that there are now about thirty families on the settlement.

One of the originals who has survived is Mr. A. Weland, and despite severe war injuries he has been reasonably successful at dairying. His holding has an area of 450-acres, one-third of which consists of creek flats. In 1918 when he started, he had thirteen cows; to-day he is running ninety-five. But success has come only after a bitter fight, calling for resourcefulness and courage reminiscent of the dark days of world turmoil. Fortitude enabled Mr. Weland to conquer where others fell by the wayside, and once he got on his feet an appreciation of up-to-date methods made his progress more rapid.

In this connection Mr. Weland has a word of praise for milking machines. He was the first man to use machine milking in the Tarcutta district. That was fifteen years ago, and he says that the machines are the best friend a dairyman has. It was on Uncle Wiseman's advice, too, that he installed the plant, and he cannot speak highly enough of the service it has given.

In building up the herd he has given particular attention to the use of good bulls. Although unable to afford pure-bred cows, he has used the best bulls procurable locally and for some time has had at the head of the herd Wagga Brilliant, which is by Astor's Brilliant of Richmond, ex Comfort of Berry. Comfort is now twenty-two years of age and when nineteen gave a test of 6232.5-lb. of milk, 5.3 test, and 329.42-lb. of butter-fat in 273 days, continuing for 365 days to give 414.7-lb. of fat, with an average test of 5.4.

On Wagga Brilliant's helpers, it is intended to use Retford Fern's Prince, purchased at the recent Wokalena dispersal sale. Retford Fern's Prince is by Retford Jersey King, out of Retford Fern, which was an outstanding cow for type.

Of the creek flats, in the property, 40-acres has been sown to lucerne, which is used mostly for grazing, and there is 20-acres of sown down pasture, consisting of Wimmera rye grass, sub. clover, and sheep's burnet. Additional feed is pro-

vided by 60-acres of oats and 20-acres of maize.

Mr. Weland is an enthusiast on herd recording. About six years ago he was instrumental in getting testing going in the district, and he considers that it has been a great benefit in breeding and in culling. Proof that he is on the right line is provided by the fact that for the three months, October to December last, he supplied the Wagga factory with 8000-lb. of butter.

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the article above, and answer the following questions:

- What is the article about?
- What is the name of the soldier settler mentioned in the article?
- How long had he lived on the Estate?
- How large was his block, and what was it like?
- How many families does the paper say are living at Tarcutta in 1935?
- What does Arthur attribute his success to?
- What does Arthur grow on his property?
- What is Arthur an enthusiast of?
- How much butter did Arthur supply the Butter Factory with over a three-month period?
- Do you think this article is a good **primary source** for people researching soldier settlement at Tarcutta?

RESEARCH TASK

This task can be done by individuals, pairs, or in a group. For this task, students will require access to the Internet.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Go to the National Library of Australia's TROVE website <http://trove.nla.gov.au>
- Search for a newspaper article that relates to soldier settlement in the Wagga District.

NB: This can be done by typing *Wagga soldier settlement* into the search box

- Choose an article or clipping that tells you something about life on a soldier settlement block or estate.
- Print out a copy of the article.
- Give a brief presentation to your class, outlining the main points in the article:
 - What is it about?
 - What does it tell you about soldier settlers and their lives?
 - Does it add to your overall knowledge of the soldier settlement story?

ACTIVITY THREE

ANSWERS

What is the article about?

The article's headline reads 'SOLDIER'S FIGHT REWARDED: Tarcutta Settler Started with Thirteen Cows and Now has Ninety-five: Praise for Milking Machines.'

It focuses on the success of one of the original soldier settlers on the post-WWI Tarcutta Estate, who managed to make a living from dairying.

What is the name of the soldier settler mentioned in the article?

Mr A. Weland (sic) is the soldier settler featured in the article.
[His full name was Arthur George Wealand (the paper spelled this incorrectly).]

How long had he lived on the Estate?

Arthur was one of the original settlers who moved onto the Tarcutta Estate shortly after its establishment in 1918.

How large was his block, and what was it like?

Arthur's block was 458 acres, one-third of which was creek flats.

How many families does the paper say are living at Tarcutta in 1935?

The paper says there are now about thirty families living on the settlement.

What does Arthur attribute his success to?

Arthur attributes his success in dairying largely to his milking machines.

What else does Arthur grow on his property?

Arthur has 40 acres of the creek flats on his property sown with Lucerne, which is used mostly for grazing, and there is 20 acres of sown down pasture, consisting of Wimmera rye grass, sub clover and sheep's burnet. Additional feed is provided by 60 acres of oats and 20 acres of maize.

What is Arthur an enthusiast of?

Arthur is an enthusiast on herd recording. He was instrumental in getting testing going in the district, which was a great benefit in breeding and in culling.

How much butter did Arthur supply the Wagga Butter Factory with over a three-month period?

Between October and December 1934, Arthur supplied the Wagga Factory with 8000lb of butter!

Do you think this article is a good primary source for people researching soldier settlement at Tarcutta?

Yes, it is. Although there may be some small inaccuracies (for e.g. Arthur's surname) it tells us that not all of the soldier settlers who made their home on the Tarcutta Estate after WWI were failures. It provides background information about Arthur Wealand, telling us that he sustained severe war injuries, and despite this, was still successful in his endeavours. The article also reveals that only 7 of the original 38 men were still on their blocks at the time of publishing, in 1935.



ACTIVITY FOUR

Comparing Tarcutta (1917-21) and Wantabadgery (1947-49)

The returned servicemen who settled on the Tarcutta Estate after World War I and those who settled at Wantabadgery East and West after World War II had very different experiences.

INSTRUCTIONS

Read Arthur Belling's story (below) and answer the questions which follow.

World War I example	Arthur Bertram Belling, <i>Alloomba</i>, Tarcutta
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Wartime experience

Arthur Bertram Belling was born in 1892 at Coolamon, NSW.

When World War I was declared, he was a farmer at Old Junee. On 28 August 1914 he signed on with the 3rd Battalion AIF at the Wagga Showgrounds. He was twenty-two years of age.

After two months intensive training in Sydney, he sailed on the *Euripides*, bound for further training in Egypt, and eventually, the battlefields of Gallipoli.

The 3rd Battalion took part in the attack on Lone Pine (6 – 19 August 1915), a battle in which hundreds of men lost their lives.

After three days of fierce fighting, the men of the 3rd were reprieved, and mustered on the parade ground for roll call. On the previous Friday, there had been 900 men. On this day, the following Monday, 66 men answered. Arthur was one of them.

Along with three of his comrades, Arthur went to pick up his pack and head down to the sea to wash off the grime of the trenches. At that moment, a mortar shell burst

directly above the group. Two of the men were killed instantly, and Arthur sustained serious injuries to his right leg.

The fourth man, young Hugh Cooper, escaped without a scratch. He stayed with Arthur until he was taken onto a hospital ship that night.

The following day, Hugh was killed.

He was just eighteen years old.

Post-war experience

I made a bad pick.

Arthur Belling, Tarcutta Schools Centenary, 1973

Arthur returned to Australia in June 1916, and was discharged from the Army medically unfit. He spent months in hospital overseas, and when he came home, a doctor in Junee wanted to amputate (remove) his leg, but Arthur wouldn't let him.

In June 1917, land was made available for soldier settlement in Tarcutta. Arthur hoped to become a wheat farmer, and was allocated a block of 625 acres.

When Arthur arrived on his block, it was neglected and run-down, covered with dead standing timber (ring-barked trees), and overrun by rabbits. When a specialist was invited to inspect the property, he advised Arthur to concentrate on the few good acres running along the creek. Here, vegetables could be grown for the Wagga market. The remaining 600-odd acres were wasteland, good for nothing.

They were tough beginnings, but Arthur persevered.

He spent years clearing the land ready for planting. In the 1920s, Arthur sowed about 150 acres of oats and wheat, and ran 200 sheep.

He also grew chaff. This was needed as feed for the work horses, and the extra sacks were sold to provide much-needed income. The Fife family brought their chaff-cutting plant to Tarcutta each year and cut stacks of hay for the soldier settlers there.

Arthur married Annie Hillam in October 1920, and three years later, their first son Hugh was born. Over the next ten years, Annie bore four more children, all boys.

Life on the land was especially difficult for Annie, especially with no daughters to help her around the house.

During the Depression of the 1930s, she showed the resourcefulness and strength that was required of women with families. She made the boys shirts and underpants out of Wagga Lily flour bags, and dripping replaced butter on the bread. Annie baked bread, made wagga rugs from jute bags and also made her own soap from a mixture of sheep's fat (tallow) and caustic soda.

In the 1930s, Arthur's neighbour Dick Fosbery planted clover seed which he had purchased in South Australia. This was the first sowing of sub clover in the district. When it was a success, Arthur also sowed 20 acres.

After a shaky start, the crop yielded the following year. The next year, Arthur sowed 500 acres and the Belling farm went from strength to strength.

Today, Arthur Belling's descendents are the sole survivors of those original Tarcutta soldier settlers.

Members of his family, including son Bill (and his wife Fay) still live on the 625 acre block *Alloomba*. A third generation will soon take over the running of the farm, ensuring its survival well into the 21st century.

QUESTIONS

- What did Arthur call his block?
- How many acres was Arthur allocated?
- Why do you think Arthur said he picked a bad block?
- What problems did Arthur face when he first moved onto his block?
- What crops and/or stock did Arthur have on his farm?
- Why did Annie, Arthur's wife, find life particularly hard?
- If you wanted to find out more about Arthur's wartime service, where could you look?



TASK

Photographs have been taken from Arthur Belling's family album. They show the different stages of Arthur's life, including his time in the Army and his later life on the farm. You have been given the job of publishing Arthur's story. To do this, you need to document the story told above, using the photographs provided.

INSTRUCTIONS

Match the photographs provided with the parts of Arthur's story which you think they illustrate.

NB: *You do not have to use all of the photographs if you do not want to.*



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4



PHOTO 5



PHOTO 6



PHOTO 7



PHOTO 8



PHOTO 9

ACTIVITY FOUR ANSWERS

What did Arthur call his block?

Arthur called his block *Alloomba*.

How many acres was Arthur allocated?

Arthur's block was 625 acres.

Why do you think Arthur said he picked a bad block?

Arthur said that he picked a bad block because the land was of such poor quality. Of his 625 acres, approximately 600 were wasteland.

What problems did Arthur face when he first moved onto his block?

Arthur's block was full of dead standing timber (trees that had been ring-barked), it was neglected and run-down and overrun by rabbits.

What crops and/or stock did Arthur have on his farm?

Arthur sowed oats, wheat and sub clover and ran 200 sheep.

Why did Annie, Arthur's wife, find life particularly hard?

Annie found life hard because she had five sons and a husband to look after. Life on the block would have been easier for Annie if she had a daughter to help with the domestic chores and housework.

If you wanted to find out more about Arthur's wartime service, where could you look?

To find out more about Arthur Belling, and his wartime service, you would look at his records on the National Archives of Australia website -

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/NameSearch/Interface/NameSearchForm.aspx>

Further information can also be found by searching the Australian War Memorial's website - <https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/all/>

World War II example Original soldier settlers of Wantabadgery East

In January 1948, The Australian Women's Weekly published a two-page article which reported on the early experiences of some of the first returned servicemen to settle on the Wantabadgery East Estate.

These servicemen included:

- Lindsay Longley
- Tom Casey
- Lou Hartwig
- Fred Hazelwood
- Lloyd Booth

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the article *Ex-service settlers at Wantabadgery confident of success* by Ainslie Baker, published in the Women's Weekly of 3 January 1948, and answer the following questions. This can be done individually or as a class.

<< ARTICLE TO BE ATTACHED AS A JPEG >>

QUESTIONS

- One of the settlers featured was an ex-POW. Who is it?
 - Where was he a POW and for how long?
 - Where would you look if you wanted to find out more information about his time as a POW – e.g. where he was captured and held prisoner?
- Most of the soldier settlers took their families with them when they started their new lives on the land.
 - Which settler was accompanied by his mother?
 - What were their names?
 - What were their living conditions like at the beginning?
 - What did his mother miss when she moved onto the land?
- Who built the settlement's first haystack?
- Who was the caretaker of the Estate before the soldier settlers arrived?
- Below, is a photograph of the lean-to that Mavis (Maisie) and Lou Hartwig lived in until they built a house on their block.



- How does the reporter describe the Hartwig's home?
- What improvements has Mavis made to their temporary home?

- Who was the first settler to build a permanent home on Wantabadgery East?
 - What material was it made of?
 - Describe some of the home's features.
 - How does the settler's wife describe her new home?

- How did the land ballot process work?
 - What were the conditions imposed on the settlers who drew a ballot?
 - What assistance did they receive from the Government?



ACTIVITY FIVE ANSWERS

One of the settlers featured was an ex-POW. Who is it?
Lindsay Longley was a POW.

Where would you look if you wanted to find out more information about his time as a POW – e.g. where he was captured and held prisoner?

Information about POWs can be found on the Australian War Memorial's website - https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/prisoners_of_war/

Further details can sometimes be found in their enlistment papers – on the National Archives of Australia website (Name Search), or even in newspaper articles (on Trove).

Most of the soldier settlers took their families with them when they started their new lives on the land.

Which settler was accompanied by his mother?

Tom Casey

What were their living conditions like at the beginning?

Tom and his mother were living in old Army huts, with spare furniture and household goods stacked outside.

What did his mother miss when she moved onto the land?

Mrs Casey missed her piano, she says that she doesn't mind the loneliness if it means a start for Tom, 'But I miss my piano... there isn't room for it here.'

Who built the settlement's first haystack?

The first haystack was built by Lou Hartwig, helped by neighbour Fred Hazelwood and Charlie Morgan.

Who was the caretaker of the Estate before the soldier settlers arrived?

Charlie Morgan was the caretaker.

Below, is a photograph of the lean-to that Mavis (Maisie) and Lou Hartwig lived in until they built a house on their block.

How does the reporter describe the Hartwig's home?

The Hartwigs were living in a 'one-roomed iron shed with a lean-to.'

What improvements has Mavis made to their temporary home?

The reporter says that Mavis has made a garden in front and her home is neat and bright.

Who was the first settler to build a permanent home on Wantabadgery East?

Lindsay Longley built the first home on Wantabadgery East.

How does the settler's wife describe her new home?

Rae Longley describes her new home as having everything that you'd expect in a comfortable and well-planned city home.

How did the land ballot process work?

To enter the ballot process for a piece of land at Wantabadgery (and other soldier settlement estates after WWII), applicants had to:

- have completed a minimum of six months' service
- have an honorable discharge
- be physically fit
- have the right land experience
- have luck on your side!

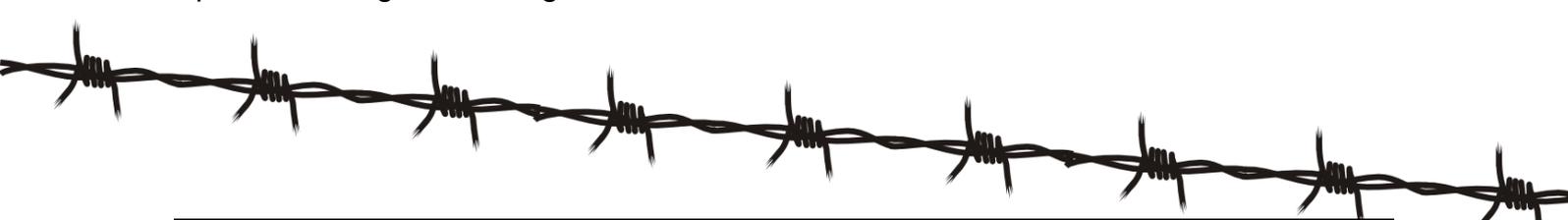
Ex-servicemen who ticked all of these boxes would apply with the Lands Department and be given a number. This was then entered into a ballot, using a ballot box. If their number was drawn, they won the block.

What were the conditions imposed on the settlers who drew a ballot?

The lots were held on perpetual lease, subject to certain conditions, including full rights of disposal through will. This meant that the settlers were able to pass their blocks onto their children in their will.

What assistance did they receive from the Government?

The men who drew the ballots weren't expected to be self-sufficient straight away. They paid no rent to begin with, and during what was known as the 'assistance period' were given a living allowance from £5/10/-.



ACTIVITY FIVE

Curator for a day: research a soldier settler

In the early stages of researching the exhibition *From barbed wire to boundary fences* it was important to find out as much as possible about the individual servicemen who became soldier settlers.

This allowed us to build as complete a picture as possible of who these men were. Their pre-war occupations, personal history and wartime experiences all had some bearing on their later lives as soldier settlers, and ultimately, helped determine whether or not they succeeded or failed in their endeavours as farmers.

Two examples of the information uncovered are included in **Appendix 1**.

Now it is your turn to be a curator!

INSTRUCTIONS

The stories of 69 servicemen are presented in the exhibition space – 36 veterans of WWI who took up land at Tarcutta (1917-1921) and 33 WWII returned servicemen who were the first to settle on blocks across Wantabadgery East and West.

- Choose a settler to research. You can either select a name from the list below, or you might even have an ancestor who was a soldier settler whose story you would like to tell.

World War I	Tarcutta Estate
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Donald BAILLIE
Neil Livett BOOMER
Horace Sidney BURCHER
Matthew DELANEY
David CROSBY
George Vincent 'Dick' FOSBERY
Bertie Allen HILTON
Dudley PONSFORD
Ernest WHITING
William WINTERBOTTOM

East

Wallace Herbert BOOBY
Eric Virgoe COULDEN
Lindsay Trevor LONGLEY
Herbert Harold PEARD
Edgar 'Ned' QUINNELL

West

David Joseph ALSTON
William Maxwell 'Bill' HOWARD
Charles Leslie Sadler FALKINER
Henry Charles 'Harry' JACKSON
Wallace Sidney Joseph SKELTON

- When you have chosen your serviceman, it is time to get as much information as possible from his military records.

These records can be found at the following websites:

The Australian War Memorial

<http://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/all>

The National Archives of Australia

<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/index.aspx>

- Record the information you have found on the form supplied in **Appendix 2**.
- Research an historically significant event which your chosen serviceman was involved in, for example: Arthur Belling fought at Lone Pine, an experience which he wrote about many years later.
- Present your findings to the class. This can be done as an oral presentation, graphic presentation, written presentation or a combination of all.

If you have researched one of your own ancestors who enlisted during WWI, you might like to submit your research material (text and photographs) to the National Archives of Australia, to be uploaded on their website *Discovering Anzacs*. This can be found at <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/>.

ACTIVITY SIX

Health challenges – the soldier settlers of Tarcutta (1917 – 1921)

The men who settled on the Tarcutta Estate during and after World War I came from all walks of life. Only a percentage of those that became farmers had practical experience on the land, with pre-war occupations including horse breaker, stockman, jackaroo and grazier. There were also those whose training would not be viewed as such a help in their new lives – with professions including hairdresser, cook, saddler and soldier.

Not were all Australian-born. There were men from Britain (England, Ireland and Scotland) and also one Canadian.

Many of these early soldier settlers, particularly those discharged before the end of the war, were carrying the effects – both physical and mental – from the time they spent fighting at the Front. It is perhaps unsurprising then, that some settlers found their new lives a major adjustment, and had difficulty in making a living off their new farms.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read the information supplied in **Appendix 3** and **4**. Here, you will discover what life was like in the trenches of World War I, and also, learn about some of the common illnesses and injuries that the soldiers faced.
- Below, there is an image of a World War I soldier, and a list of the injuries and illnesses that were recorded amongst the original soldier settlers from Tarcutta.
- Give a brief explanation for each illness and injury listed.
 - Using the illustration, match the illness or injury with the part of the body that it would have most affected – for example: astigmatism affects the eyes.
 - Pick one illness, and one injury from the list that you think would have made life difficult for the soldier settler, and discuss your reasons.

Illnesses and injuries – WWI soldier settlers, Tarcutta Estate (1917 – 1921)

Adenitis
Appendicitis
Astigmatism
Bomb wound
Bronchitis
Debility
Enteric Fever
Fractured skull
Gassed
Gunshot wounds (GSW)
Hernia
Hydrocele
Mental shock

Myalgia
Neurasthenia
Paralysis
Pneumonia
Rheumatism
Severe compound fracture
Shell wound (SW)
Synovitis
Toes amputated
Valvular Heart Disease (VHD)
Varicose veins
Vertigo



ACTIVITY SIX**ANSWERS**

Adenitis	Inflammation of a gland or lymph node, most commonly in the neck, often caused by an infection.
Appendicitis	Inflammation of the appendix, can be life-threatening.
Astigmatism	An optical defect in the eye, in which vision is blurred.
Bomb wound	A wound sustained from a bomb explosion. This can be direct (e.g. a body part blown away by the bomb) or indirect (e.g. shrapnel wound from explosion, or even deafness).
Bronchitis	A serious lung infection in which the <i>bronchi</i> (the larger and medium-sized airways that carry airflow from the trachea into the more distal parts of the <i>lung parenchyma</i> , it can be chronic or acute.
Debility	Debility was present as a physical weakness or feebleness. It was often the symptom of an illness or injury. For example: venereal disease could result in debility.
Enteric Fever	Another name for Typhoid Fever, a bacterial infection caused by the <i>Salmonella typhi</i> , that can spread throughout the whole body, involving multiple organs. Without prompt treatment, it can be fatal.
Fractured skull	A skull fracture is a break in one or more of the eight bones that form the cranial portion of the skull, usually occurring as a result of blunt force trauma to the head.
Gassed	Poison gas was probably one of the most feared of all weapons during WWI. There were 1,250,000 gas casualties in the war, with 91,000 fatalities. This does not take into account the men who died from gas related injuries years after the end of the war, or the number of men who survived but were so badly incapacitated by poison gas that they could not hold down a job when discharged from the army. Gas could burn the skin, the lungs, the eyes and damage organs.
Gunshot wounds (GSW)	Gunshot wounds, like bomb wounds, could be direct or indirect (caused by shrapnel fragments). Machine guns caused horrific injuries, and infection was always a concern. As well as causing penetrating injuries, high velocity bullets could also fracture any bones they came into contact with.

Hernia	A hernia is where an internal part of the body pushes through a weakness in the muscle or surrounding tissue wall. Without treatment, hernias can be life-threatening.
Hydrocele	A hydrocele is a collection of fluid in the scrotum.
Mental shock	Mental shock was another term for <i>Shell Shock</i> , the term used during WWI to describe the psychological trauma suffered by men serving on the war's key battlefronts. Symptoms varied widely in intensity, and ranged from moderate panic attacks to effective mental and physical paralysis. Sent home to recover, many shell shock victims recovered over time, whereas many others continued to feel its effects for years afterwards.
Myalgia	A chronic and severe muscle pain, Myalgia was a crippling illness. It gave men the shakes, bent them double and left them unable to walk without two sticks.
Neurasthenia	A lesser-known medical condition characterised by lassitude, fatigue, headache and irritability. Associated chiefly with emotional disturbance; a nervous breakdown.
Paralysis	A loss of the ability to move one or more muscles. It may be associated with the loss of feeling and other bodily functions. It is not usually caused by problems with the muscles themselves, but by problems with the nerves or spinal cord that the brain uses to control muscles. Therefore a person with paralysis will usually have suffered some kind of nerve damage.
Pneumonia	An inflammatory condition that primary affects the microscopic air sacs called the <i>avioli</i> . It is usually caused by infection with viruses or bacteria, and less commonly other microorganisms. Typical symptoms include a cough, chest pain, fever and difficulty breathing.
Rheumatism	Rheumatic diseases were common during World War I, again, partly due to the terrible conditions in the trenches. Rheumatism or rheumatic disorder is a non-specific term for medical problems affecting the joints and connective tissue.
Compound fracture	A compound fracture is an open fracture – an injury that occurs when there is a break in the skin around a broken bone. In order for an injury to be classified as a compound fracture, the outside air (and dirt and bacteria) must be able to get to the fracture site without a barrier of skin or soft-tissue.

Shell wound (SW)	The shells of World War I were projectiles which were filled with an explosive or other filling (like lead shot). Wounds from shells were often more serious than those inflicted by bullets, with razor sharp, jagged chunks of steel flying hundreds of yards, and lead shrapnel balls peppering the ground like large shotgun blasts
Synovitis	The inflammation of a synovial (joint-lining) membrane (for e.g. the knee) usually painful, particularly when moving. Characterised by swelling, due to fluid retention. Associated with rheumatoid arthritis.
Toes amputated	Toe amputation (removal of toe(s)) could have been for a number of reasons, including GSW or more likely, as a result of trench foot or even frostbite. Trench foot would cause the foot to rot and turn gangrenous, and would lead to amputation. Toe amputation would be preferable to an infection setting in, which could result in death.
Valvular Heart Disease (VHD)	Rheumatic fever was the most common cause of VHD prior to WWII. This disease is characterised by damage to, or a defect in one of the four heart valves – the mitral, aortic, tricuspid or pulmonary. It can result in congestive heart failure and other complications.
Varicose veins	Varicose veins are veins that are twisted and enlarged near the surface of the skin. They are most common in the legs and ankles. They usually aren't life-threatening, but can be painful and lead to other problems. They could have been the result of standing in the trenches for long periods. Men with varicose veins on applying to enlist in the armed forces were often rejected because of this condition.
Vertigo	Vertigo is a symptom rather than a condition. It is the sensation that you, or the environment around you, is moving or spinning. Could be the result of an infection, spreading to the inner ear. Symptoms include loss of balance (which makes it difficult to stand or walk), nausea and vomiting and lightheadedness.



ACTIVITY SEVEN

Topic for debate

The following is a debate topic which students can debate as formal teams, or as part of a team discussion:

Soldier settlement was a fair reward for the men who fought for their country – Discuss.



CURRICULUM: FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Focus area

Food in Australia

Outcomes

A student:

5.3.2 justifies food choices by analysing the factors that influence eating habits

5.5.2 plans, prepares, presents and evaluates food solutions for specific purposes

5.6.1 examines the relationship between food, technology and society



Underground mutton – rabbits as food in post and inter-war Australia

The European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), also known as the domestic or common rabbit, came out to Australia with the First Fleet in 1788, and the first feral populations were recorded in 1827. In 1859, Thomas Austin brought out 24 rabbits, 5 hare and 72 partridges and released them on his property *Barwon Park* (Victoria) for hunting.

By the 1890s the number of rabbits throughout Australia had reached plague proportions. According to the Department of Primary Industries there were 10 billion rabbits in Australia by 1926.

As the lands given to soldier settlers had often been neglected or unoccupied (due to the wartime shortage of men to work the land), rabbits ran unchecked on the land that had been set aside for soldier settlement. As a result, many settlers faced the challenge of clearing their lands of rabbits before they could run stock or grow crops.

Some gave up and simply walked off.



***Mt Lofty* had a huge amount of rabbits and trying to eradicate them was a full time job. Elsa and Eric had many difficulties running their property and eventually sold it... maybe being an English countryman and running a rabbit infested Australian property had its drawbacks.**

Elsa and Eric Coulden, *Mt Lofty*, Wantabadgery East

There were times in Australia's history, however, when rabbits were a commodity as well as a curse. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, rabbits (then called

underground mutton) became a much-needed source of protein which was affordable for many. Those living in the country had a plentiful supply and those in the cities could rely on delivery by the *rabbit-o* man.

Rabbit continued to be a popular staple during the lean years of World War II.

The families who settled on soldier settlement blocks in Wantabadgery in the late 1940s had to deal with rabbits in such large numbers that in some places, they took years to eradicate.

Until *Myxomatosis* was introduced in the early 1950s, there were limited means for getting rid of the rabbit populations off large tracts of land. The post-WWII soldier settlers of Wantabadgery set spring loaded traps, laid poisoned carrots and oats and organised communal rabbit drives.



A lot of fun was derived from Rabbit Drives, with men, women and children (those old enough), tin cans and anything that would make a noise... was no trouble snaring up to a thousand rabbits on those drives.

Allan and Joan Druett, *Oivi*, Wantabadgery West

While the rabbits caused a lot of problems for the soldier settlers, they also provided some benefits. Soldier settlers made money from selling the rabbits for their carcasses and skins, and they could also be eaten (by stock and settlers!) This meant that while there were rabbits, there was a readily available food supply for all.



We gutted them at one stage and the rabbit truck came twice a week. They went to the freezer works in Wagga, two and six a pair is what we were paid for them. Also we ate them and even had them served at supper at one of the balls and the townies loved them.

Enid Scobie, *Shangri-la*, Wantabadgery West



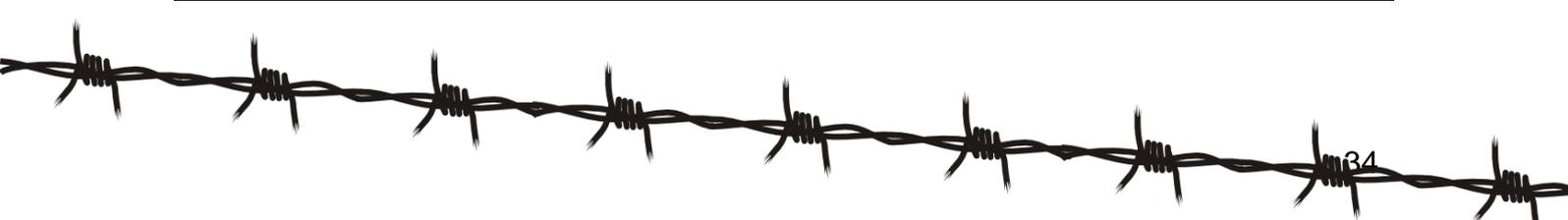
I remember quite well, one occasion, we held a ball at Wantabadgery, the supper was roast rabbit. The men folk snared the rabbits and the ladies baked them. All in attendance remarked what a lovely supper it was.

Allan and Joan Druett, *Oivi*, Wantabadgery West



There is no way a rabbit has been cooked, that I haven't eaten it!

Ramon Skelton, *Castleray*, Wantabadgery West



ACTIVITY ONE

Rabbit for supper!

Humans have eaten rabbit and hare for centuries. From the *Leporem Farsum* (stuffed hare) of ancient Rome to the *Segueza* (rabbit and corn stew), a traditional Zapotec dish eaten by the inhabitants of Oaxaca, Mexico.

In Australia, however, rabbits were a food source that many associated with times of hardship and deprivation. They sustained the poor during the depressions of the 1890s and 1930s, and were also a popular staple during World War II. As a result, in Australia, rabbit is not a meat that is commonly seen on the dinner table.

Today, the humble rabbit is undergoing a resurgence in popularity. This is most probably due to its unique taste, health benefits, and versatility as a meat.

The Goulburn Cookery Book of 1930 provides two pages of rabbit recipes. These include Broiled Rabbit, Rabbit Pie, Rabbit Pudding and Stewed Rabbit.

Generally, because rabbits were in plentiful supply throughout the Riverina, many who lived on the land, including many of the soldier settlers and their families at Tarcutta, were able to keep food on the family dinner table during the Great Depression.

Bill Belling, who grew up on his father's soldier settlement block *Alloomba* at Tarcutta, recalls itinerant workers who had taken to the track calling into the farm every day:

One fellow asked for food and was cooked up six eggs served on bread, then asked 'how are you for fat?' Art said we had plenty – and poured it over the top of the eggs!

Bill Belling, interview, 2012

The Depression days of the thirties were terribly difficult for most parents. There wasn't any money to buy anything apart from absolute essentials. But for all that we existed happily, there always seemed to be a few veggies in the garden grown by utilising the used domestic water.

Everyone milked a cow, so there was milk. Separating provided cream which was churned into butter. People killed their own meat, the difficulty was keeping it fresh, so a lot of salted meat was used.

There were plenty of rabbits around in those days. Seasoned and baked they were delicious. Mostly we had chooks, so eggs were available and occasionally a rooster would lose his head to add variety to the diet. Maybe the fish we ate could not be considered a chore as my father absolutely loved fishing. I wonder how many decades will pass before killing a sheep, skinning a rabbit and plucking a chook will be a lost art.

Fay Belling, Tarcutta Stories, 1990

For those who lived in the cities during the Great Depression, food was harder to come by, especially if you had lots of mouths to feed, or were out of work. To help feed their families, women were urged to grow vegetables in their backyards and to keep poultry. In the streets, the cry of the *rabbit-o* man could be heard, as he did his rounds selling fresh rabbits which made for a cheap and nutritious meal.



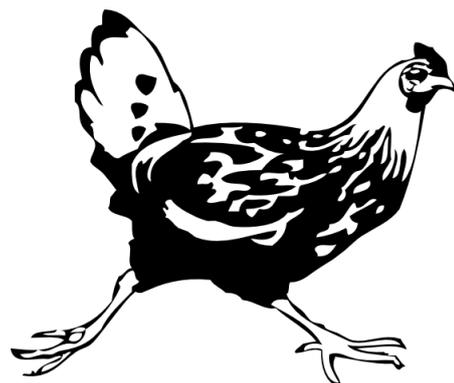
INSTRUCTIONS

- Imagine that you are a soldier settler living on a block at Tarcutta in the inter-war period. It is December 1931, the height of the **Great Depression**. Your job is to provide your family with the best Christmas dinner that is within your means – this includes your extended family – a total of 6 adults and 4 children.
- You have caught a fresh brace of rabbits especially for Christmas, but you are not sure how you will cook them. Do some research and find a rabbit recipe from the period which will become the centrepiece of your dinner table.
- Create your own Christmas dinner menu.

Some things you will need to consider:

- What else will you cook for your family on Christmas Day?
 - How self-sufficient are you on your farm?
 - Are there any ingredients which you would have to buy, or would you have to do without (perhaps by substituting something else)
 - What will you drink?
 - Will you be serving a dessert?
 - What special treats could you provide for the children?
- Cook the rabbit dish you have chosen

NB: *Chicken can be substituted if rabbit is too expensive!*



ACTIVITY TWO

MKR (My Kitchen Rules) Challenge!

This challenge can be done in pairs, or as a group.

You and your partner both live in Tarcutta, NSW, and have been chosen as the contestants representing NSW in Round One of *My Kitchen Rules*.

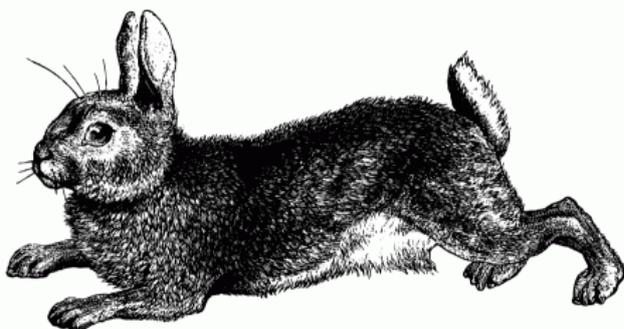
You are both particularly interested in the history of soldier settlement, having grown up on soldier settlement blocks in your hometown. As a result, you enjoy making dishes that highlight your self-sufficiency (i.e. you grow your own vegetables and rear your own livestock), show resourcefulness and are inventive.

The theme of your restaurant and the dishes you serve will reflect this interest.

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the following tasks:

- Come up with a name for your instant restaurant
- What décor will you use?
- Create your menu and include entrée, main and dessert
- How do your choices reflect the types of food available to the families who settled as soldier settlers in Tarcutta after World War I?
- What contemporary ingredients and cooking styles have you brought in to give your menu a modern twist?
- Do you think you can successfully turn a dish inspired by hardship into something that could appear on the table at a modern fine dining restaurant?
- Create one of the dishes from your menu.
- Evaluate and score the dishes of your classmates.



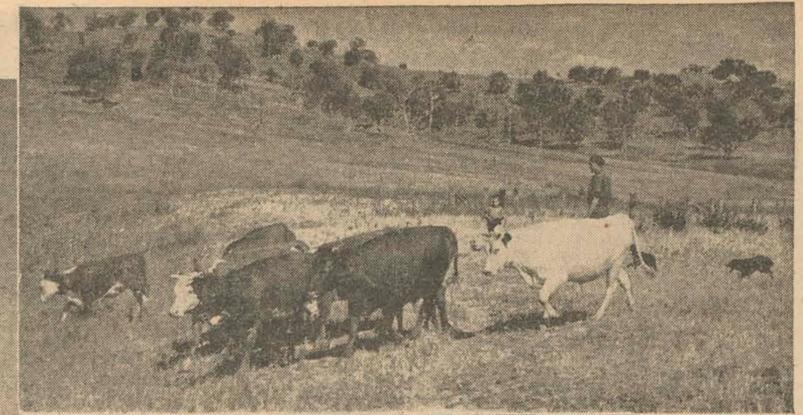
Ex-service settlers at Wantabadgery confident of success



AFTER FIRST SHEARING, ex-P.O.W. Lindsay Longley inspects some of his merino lambs and ewes. Lindsay tried in five different ballots before he drew the 924-acre lot he took up at Wantabadgery in April of last year.



HELPERS are given lunch by the Hartwigs in temporary pioneering-style home. Left to right: Fred Hazelwood, Lou Hartwig, Mrs. Hartwig, Charlie Morgan, of the Lands Department.



TOP: Never too young to learn, John Booth is taught to move cattle by soldier settler father, Lloyd Booth, in paddock of 730-acre lot. On land all his life, Lloyd will concentrate on sheep, with a few cattle. He'd been in only one other ballot before he drew.

Bright future prospects make hard work worth while

By AINSLIE BAKER, staff reporter

Out at Wantabadgery, N.S.W., in the heart of the rich Riverina, soldier settlers are battling to make good in 1948.

They're men who, in their Army or Air Force years, dreamed about having land of their own some day. The War Service Land Settlement Scheme made the dream a reality—far sooner than any of the dreamers had hoped.

SOME are agriculturists, some graziers, some farmers. They were the lucky ones in land ballots where so many land-hungry men watched anxiously for the drop of the marbles and so few saw their own marbles drop out.

Wantabadgery is open, rolling country, ideal for grazing, in south-west New South Wales.

Its newest settlers are married couples, families, and bachelors.

Staff photographer Ron Berg and I went to Wantabadgery East to see how the scheme was developing, and what the settlers thought about it all.

We found that they are happy and confident, though there's plenty to put up with in the way of discomforts. They are working for the future, and hard work and roughing it don't seem to matter.

For the women generally life is harder just now than for the men. They have to get meals with makeshift equipment, do the washing and bathe their children without the right facilities. But all of them know it is worth it.

Tom Casey, ex-3rd Division infantryman, was one of the lucky ones. The Wantabadgery land ballot was the first he had been in. He drew a lot.

Tom knows about sheep. Before the war he worked in Queensland, but on someone else's place.



SETTLEMENT'S first stack, piled by Lou Hartwig, helped by settler neighbor Fred Hazelwood and Charlie Morgan. Into it will go 1400 bales of lucerne. Job will be completed in long working day.

"I thought a lot in the Army about having a place of my own some day," he said.

Tom's grazing property is 1115 acres. After being there eight months, he had just under 1000 merino ewes and lambs for the first shearing. As well, he was fattening 40 cattle.

"When I get on my feet I reckon the place should carry 900 ewes," he said. "Some people say the lots are too small, but I can't see anything wrong."

All the settlers run their own places without outside help. Casey, ballotee-neighbors Booth, Coudon, and Longley sheared at the same time. They were given the use of an established shearing shed, did all the work themselves, except the actual shearing.

"Things are a bit rough for a start, but I have the place picked out for a house. They way things look now she'll be of cement bricks, the same as some of the other places," Tom Casey told us.

Casey demurred at having his photo taken. "Cripes," he protested, "a man will end up a Chips Rafferty."

That's exactly his type: tall, lean, dark, and laconic.

His mother, game old Mrs. Casey,



FIRST COMPLETED HOUSE belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Longley.

doesn't mind the loneliness if it means a start for Tom. "But I miss my piano," she said; "there isn't room for it here."

As a girl she passed a high music examination.

Lou Hartwig was busy building the settlement's first stack, assisted by his nearest neighbor, Fred Hazelwood, and Charlie Morgan, when we called.

The crop on Lou's 1080-acre lot was sown before he took over.

Charlie Morgan was caretaker of the Wantabadgery blocks until the settlers arrived.

"We all help each other here," Hartwig told us. "It's the only way

for people like us, starting from scratch."

The Hartwigs—Lou and country-bred Mavis—have been married for six years, didn't wait for a home to be built before they took up their land.

Just now they are living in a one-roomed iron shed with a lean-to. Mavis has made a garden in front and her home is neat and bright.

One day in the not-so-distant future they're going to put up a five-roomed house with a sleep-out and inside bathroom.

In the meantime water pipes are linked up to the temporary dwelling, and Mavis grows fresh vege-



YOUNGEST JACKEROO, three-months-old David Longley, kicks in movable cot while mother gets lunch.

and Bruce (10 months), Lloyd and Barbara Booth seem ideal types of settler.

"We know we've got everything to work for," Barbara told us. "The kiddies are thriving out here; we get bread, mail, and papers three times a week, and the house will soon be finished."

Until it is they're living in a corrugated-iron, wood-lined shed.

"I've got 730 acres," Booth said. "Barbara comes from the country and I've been on the land all my life. Things look all right. I drew in my second ballot."

Lloyd Booth is already playing with the local cricket and tennis teams.

"Barbara and the kids come, too," he said. "The women sit and talk while we play in the competition."

Unmarried settlers Eric Coudon and John Todd are their nearest neighbors.

"The bachelors are very independent," Mrs. Booth said. "They like coming over for meals, but I've never been asked to darn a sock or sew on a button. All the same, I'd like some feminine company; I'm going to see if I can't do some match-making."

Lloyd Booth, Army cobbler of Casey's, drew a lot that makes him a near neighbor. They had not seen each other since they were in uniform.

With their young sons John (five)

Thirty-one-year-old bachelor Ray Fallon, ex-R.A.A.F., explained to us that "Yileena," name of his 986-acre lot, means "dream that came true."

"I started with 850 ewes," he said. "They set a record of producing 102 per cent lambs. I can't say I didn't have a remarkable start."

Ex-P.O.W. Lindsay Longley and his wife Rae have the first completed house. They also have the youngest jackeroo of the settlement—three-months-old David.

The house erected by Longley, a builder, and the builder's son in seven weeks is made from R.A.A.F. huts. It cost £900 to build, was insured recently for £2100.

Longley has set it in the middle of his 924 acres.

Apart from its fuel stove (16-months-married Rae Longley is learning about cooking the hard way), it has everything you'd expect to find in a comfortable and well-planned city home.

"Our first shearing should turn out well for all of us," Longley said. "We've been given a lot of help to start us off, and couldn't have asked for a better season."

Settlers are under the wing of the District Surveyor. As well, they can get expert advice on erosion, carrying capacity, and soil analysis. All stock, machinery, and equipment, purchase of which is financed under the scheme, is okayed before the sale is completed.

The Wantabadgery scheme is part of a nation-wide one, administered by the States in accordance with the terms of Commonwealth-State agreements.

If you're in a land ballot as an ex-serviceman, with six months' service, honorable discharge, are physically fit, the right land experience, and luck is running your way, you might be a landholder when the whirling ballot-box comes to a standstill and the marble with your number on it drops out.

You can even give the box a whirl yourself.

Single ex-service women are eligible to apply for certificates, though none of them have yet been settled under the scheme.

The lots are held on a perpetual lease, with—subject to certain conditions—full rights of disposal

through will. This gives settlers with children an additional incentive.

They can't ever be sold at an unfair profit, and not at all to a land-hungry man otherwise owning enough land to support himself.

Only nine ex-servicemen have tried in every one of New South Wales' 15 land settlement ballots, and been unsuccessful each time.

To the middle of November, 1947, 133 men had been settled in the eastern and southern divisions of the State, 63 in the western.

Out of 20,000 applications lodged, over 13,000 qualification certificates, enabling their holders to participate in War Service Land Settlement ballots, have been issued.

Of the holders of these, 3900 men were interested in only one estate, did not go in further ballots.

Those who draw land in the ballots aren't expected to be self-supporting at first. They pay no rent to begin with, and during what is known as the "assistance period" are made a living allowance of from £3/10/- a week to a man with no dependent up to £5/10/- for the man eligible for the maximum allowance. After the "assistance period," rental is paid at 21 per cent. of property's improved value.



LOOKING INTO FUTURE with confident smiles, the Booth family make light of early hardships. Two healthy sons give Lloyd and Barbara incentive to succeed.



OLD ARMY HUTS are first home of settler Tom Casey and mother. Too small to hold all household goods, spare furniture is stacked outside. Tom shoots, traps, and poisons rabbits over his 1115 acres of grazing country.



NEARLY COMPLETED HOUSE where the Booths will live looks down to creek. During building they camp in makeshift shed, left. Settlers' land is held on perpetual lease at rental of 21 per cent. of improved value.

APPENDIX 2 ACTIVITY FIVE – *Curator for a day*

PROFILE OF _____

Service Record Details

Regimental number _____

Date of enlistment _____

Date and place of birth _____

Occupation _____

Next of kin _____

Embarkation Roll details

Rank _____

Date of embarkation _____

Place of embarkation _____

Daily rate of pay _____

Posting at discharge _____

Rank at discharge _____

Date of discharge _____

After the war

Soldier settlement estate _____

Acreage _____

Outcome _____

References and further information:

