

ANZAC Day



the COBBs

**Special thanks to the Cobb family for
sharing priceless family photos**

William (Bill) Cobb (1892-1977)



Service: Norfolk and Suffolk Brigade
3yrs, 10 mths
(Left to emigrate to Australia)

First World War

Service No: 10475
Enlisted : 1 October 1915 aged 23 yrs
Unit: 23rd Company, Army Service
Corps, 3rd Division Train
Operations: France and Belgium
1916-1918
Discharged: 13 April 1920 aged 28 yrs

Between Wars

Unit: 2nd Light Horse Regiment
2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment

Second World War

Service No: Q201480
Enlisted: 23 April 1942 aged 50 yrs
Unit: 2nd (Qld) Battalion Volunteer
Defence Corp



c1916: Bella, William, Iris & Albert

The COBB Family comes to Woodford

The Cobb family came to Woodford in 1920; William (1892-1977) with his wife Bella (1893-1974) and their two young children, Albert and Iris.

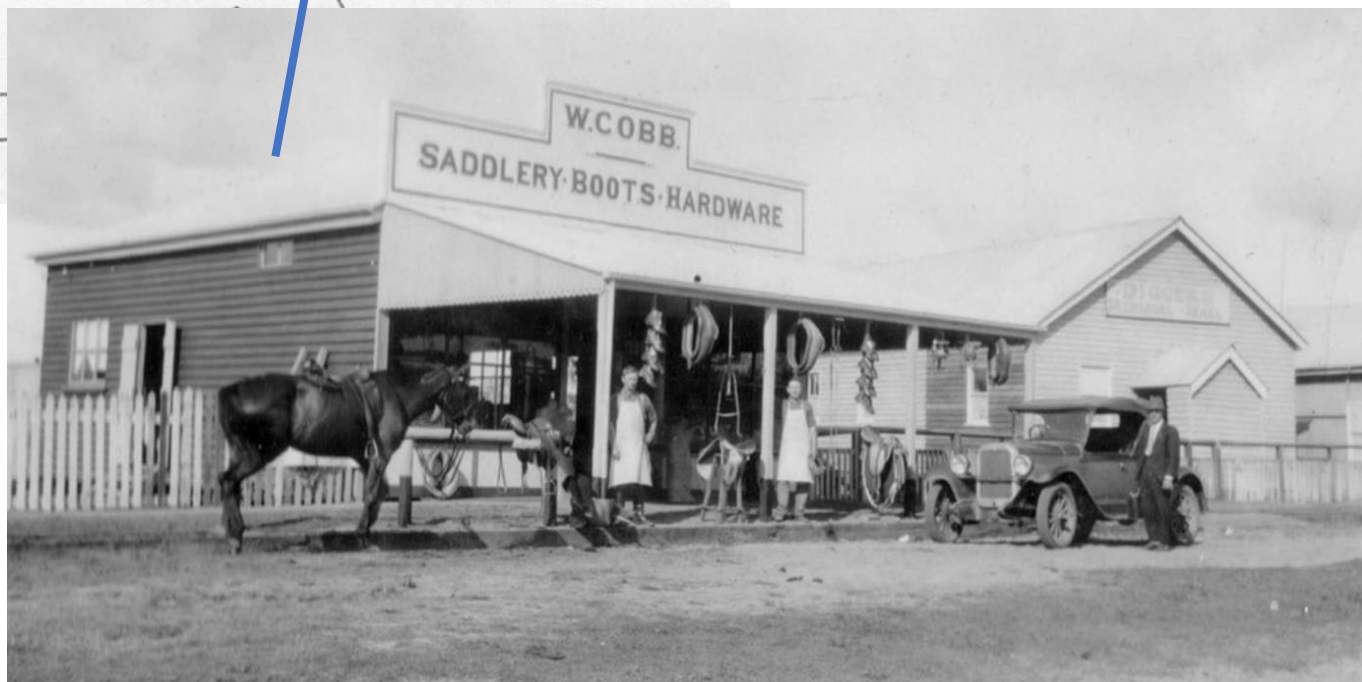
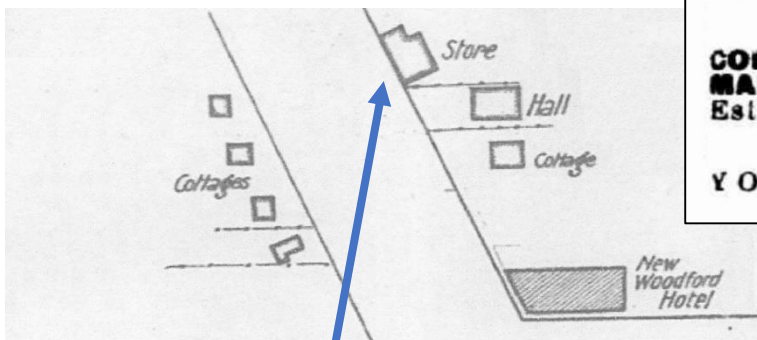
William set up his saddlery in a small shop in the main street.

And so began their life in the small country town of Woodford.



W. Cobb,
COLLAR, SADDLE AND HARNESS
MAKER, :: WOODFORD.
 Estimates Given All Classes of Work.
REPAIRS DONE PROMPTLY.
Collars a Speciality.
YOUR ORDERS SOLICITED.

From TROVE: *THE CATHOLIC ADVOCATE* 5 July 1923



William Cobb and the R.S. and S.I.L.A

A sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (now known as the RSL) was formed at Woodford in February 1920.

William became a member in March 1920. His association with the Woodford sub-branch lasted for many years, where he worked tirelessly for the betterment of the members, distressed diggers and the community.

President: 1923-1928, 1930-1932 Secretary: 1932-1937

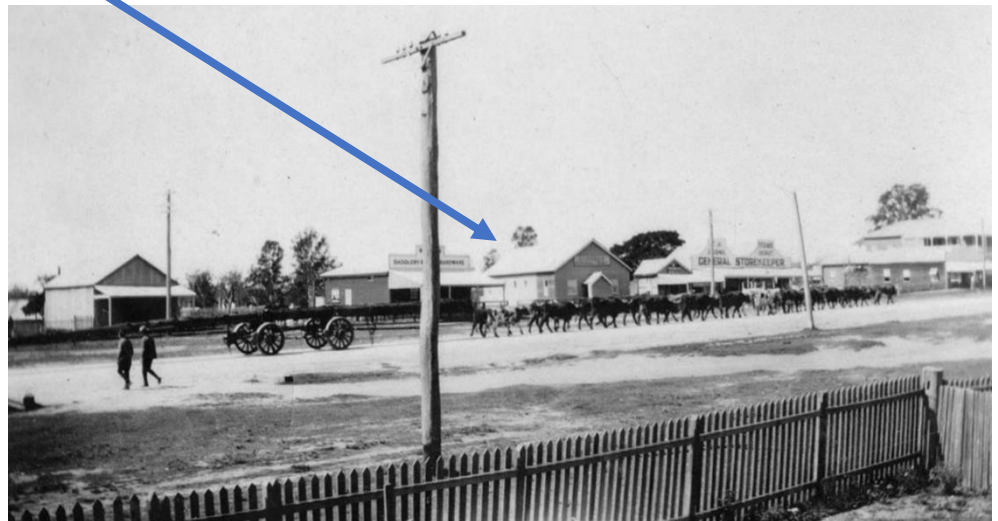


*Minutes of General monthly meeting of
Woodford sub Branch R.S.I.L.A. held
in Alexandra Hall Woodford on Saturday
March 27th 1920
There were present Messrs J. J. on mrs (in chair)
J. W. Holmes, G. B. Baylour, W. Cobb, J. Smith
R. Beris, A. Black, I. Black, I. Butler, L. Lorgan
& the Hon Secy J. A. Smith.*

In July 1924, the R.S. and S.I.L.A. purchased the Woodford Hall from Mrs M.E. King and renamed it the Diggers Memorial Hall.

The hall served as 'a memorial of those fighting men who did not return from the war' and 'an important amenity for the people of the Woodford District'.

The hall was used for many events by the community like dances and balls, meetings and reunions and even boxing tournaments.



Using information from *LENGTHENING THE SHADOWS ON DURUNDUR COUNTRY*



Charles Frederick COBB

William's younger brother, Charles, emigrated to Australia in 1924 and found his way to Woodford. Being a returned soldier, he too joined the R.S. and S.I.L.A. Soon after joining, he was elected secretary.

He resigned in August 1932 as he was leaving the district.



Captain Cobb and the Woodford Light Horse

William joined the 2nd Light Horse Regiment in September 1925 when the Woodford Light Horse Unit was formed. He was made commander of the Woodford Troop. He was promoted to Lieutenant in March 1926 and then to Captain in January 1928.

In July 1930, the 2nd Light Horse Regiment and the 14th Light Horse Regiment amalgamated to become the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment.

William transferred out of the Light Horse in August 1937.

Light Horse Troop.—Major Martin, of the 2nd Light Horse, visited Woodford on September 19 to try and form a troop for his regiment. His effort was not in vain, as 14 men joined up at the meeting, and word was received from a good number of other men who were unable to attend the meeting that they wished to join. Forms have been left with Mr. Cobb so that any one wishing to join can do so. The first parade will be held at the Diggers' Memorial Hall at 1.30 o'clock on October 3, when uniforms and saddlery will be issued.

From TROVE: *THE BRISBANE COURIER* 23 September 1925



Presented to RSSILA
by George Benney Esq

WOODFORD TROOP A *Squad* 2nd L.H. Regt
1930.



1935: Captain William Cobb taking the salute

Courtesy of City of Moreton Bay

Reference No: CLPC P0984



William's Light Horse
whistle

A.M. Form A
(Reprinted November, 1910)

OFFICER'S RECORD OF SERVICE.

Regiment or Corps *2nd Light Horse Regt*

Name *Cobb, William*

Date of Birth *31-1-1892* Civil Profession or Employment *Saddler & Horsekeeper*

Archer St Woodford, Kilsyth line. (Phone 198) 4940

Rank.	Date.	Authority (M.O. or D.O.).	Nature of Appointment.	Period.		Authority (M.O.).
				From.	To.	
Cadet						
2nd Lieut.						
Lieut.	<i>8-3-26</i>	<i>175/26</i>	<i>2nd Lieut 2nd LH Regt.</i>	<i>8-3-26</i>		<i>175/26</i>
Lieutenant	<i>17-1-28</i>	<i>23/28</i>	<i>" Capt 2nd LH Regt</i>	<i>17-1-28</i>		<i>Reg 13/28</i>
Captain			<i>Transferred to 2nd LH Regt</i>	<i>1-7-30</i>		<i>Reg 82/30</i>
Major			<i>" to Reg D (Cav.)</i>	<i>15-8-37</i>		<i>" 5/37</i>
Lieut.-Colonel						
Colonel						

Record of Military Service in the Ranks.	
Military Forces. (Units to be shown.)	Senior Cadets. (Units to be shown.)
<i>3 yrs 307 days</i>	<i>2nd LH Regt</i>
<i>Terminal force</i>	<i>19-9-25 to</i>
	<i>29-9-25</i>
<i>5 months 2nd</i>	<i>1st 30-9-25 to</i>
<i>LH Regt</i>	<i>7-3-26</i>

From National Archives
of Australia

HONOURING the COBB Family . . .

For their many years of service to King and country & the community!



After the end of the Second World War, William and Bella moved to King Street, Caboolture.

And so, after over 25 years, their Woodford chapter came to an end!

**Henry William Albert
Cobb (1915-1942)**
(known as Albert)

Service No: QX6313
Enlisted: 11 July 1940
Unit: 2/7 Cavalry Cammando
Regiment
Death: 19 December 1942,
Killed in Action

Captain Cobb was commanding D Squadron 2/7 Cavalry Regiment under command of 30 Brigade.

The Brigade was advancing towards Sanananda Point and was delayed by Japanese road blocks. Cobb led a part of his squadron to rejoin forward positions at "Huggins", but was pinned down by Japanese fire for over a day.

Cobb evacuated his wounded and remained alone at the forward point. He was not seen alive again.



Alfred Cobb

Service No: 24426
Enlisted: 7 June 1940
Service: Royal Australian Navy
Discharged: 5 January 1948

Wilfred Cobb

Service No: 24425
Enlisted: 7 June 1940
Service: Royal Australian Navy
Discharged: 11 June 1948



Delia Jean Cobb

Service No: 24426
Enlisted: 8 November 1944
Service: Royal Australian Air Force
Discharged: 29 May 1946



Ted Cobb

Service No: B5469
Enlisted: 1 May 1945
Service: Royal Australian Navy
Discharged: 17 March 1947

CAPTAIN KILLED FOUR JAPANESE BEFORE HE DIED

AS he was dying after a lone fight with four Japanese whom he killed, an Australian captain used his last strength to scratch a hole and bury important photographic records so that they would not fall into enemy hands.

He was Captain H. W. A. Cobb, of Caboolture, Queensland, who led an Australian squadron in an attempt to reach the sea near San-ananda on December 19.

He has since been buried close to the spot where his body was found. Close round him are the graves of other men from New South Wales and Queensland who died in the same action.

The graves include that of the commanding officer of the regiment, Lieut.-Colonel E. P. Logan, of Sydney. He was shot by a Jap sniper on December 20, and died next day while trying to crawl back to the Australian lines.

Units of the regiment, under orders to reach the sea and establish a perimeter, ran into stiffer enemy opposition than had been expected.

Cobb's squadron was pinned down in a ditch by heavy fire, and some of its equipment was abandoned.

Cobb, anxious that no information should reach the enemy, crawled away to get it, and was not seen alive again.

He had gone only a few yards when he met his death.

There may be no one left alive who knows exactly what happened

but in a hole five yards from Cobb's grave lie the remains of three Japanese whom he killed, probably with a grenade.

Sprawling still closer is the body of a fourth Japanese. It is probable that they mortally wounded each other in an exchange of grenades.

Cobb, dying, remembered the haversack in which he was carrying detailed air photographs of the area of the patrol's objective and a map showing the route by which they had travelled.

He found strength to bury the haversack, and it remained there until nearly a month later the Japanese were driven from the area.

A recent rainstorm uncovered part of the haversack, and it was found by the chaplain searching for Cobb's body.

Captain J. Haydon, of Murrumbidgee, NSW, took command of the squadron when Cobb did not return.

He and his men dug a winding trench about 100ft, long leading back towards the jungle from the ditch in which they had been pinned down.

It took them seven days to get back to the Australian lines.

