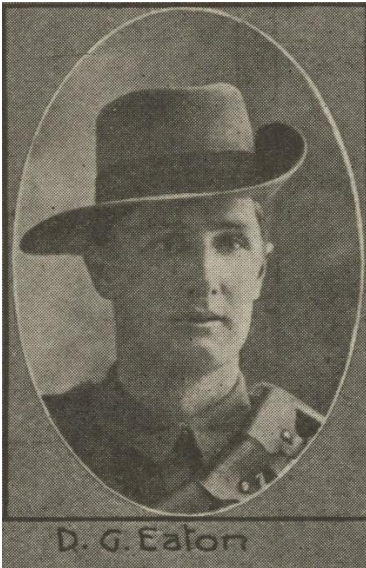


DARCY GEORGE EATON (1892 - 1967)

Born:	Woodford - 15 April 1892
Parents:	George and Hannah Isabella (Jenkinson) Eaton
School:	Durundur State School
Occupation:	Farm Labourer and Timbergetter
Lived:	Stony Creek



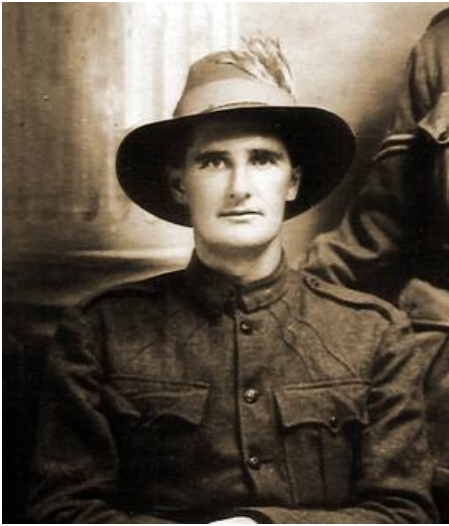
Service:	World War 1
Service Number:	619
Enlisted:	21 September 1914
Unit:	2 nd Light Horse Regiment
Rank:	Private
Deployment:	Gallipoli - Egypt - Suez Canal - Beersheba
Discharged:	26 February 1919

Returning home to Stony Creek, Darcy resumed his life on the farm. On 9 April 1921, Darcy married Hilda (May) Andrews in Brisbane. Darcy's parents moved into Woodford and the newlyweds settled into the family homestead at Stony Creek, where they continued dairying.

Along with his second cousin, Charlie Mountford, Darcy became a foundation member of the Woodford Rifle Club. While in the AIF, Darcy had become a champion marksman and was known by the nickname 'Sniper'. In 1930 he won the King's Medal, awarded to Champion Shot of the Australian Military Forces.

Service:	World War 2
Service Number:	Q3752
Re-enlisted:	2 April 1941
Unit:	101 Australian Convalescent Depot
Rank:	Lieutenant
Discharged:	3 February 1944





On 5 August 1914, Australia declared war on Germany and a recruitment drive began. Six weeks later, 22 year old Darcy enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 21 September 1914.

As part of the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, Darcy trained at Enoggera before embarking from Australia on 19 December 1914. They landed on Gallipoli on 12 May 1915 and joined the ANZAC troops that had landed only 20 days before. Without their horses, the Regiment played mainly a defensive role but did attack Turkish trenches near Quinn's Post, one of the most contested positions on the ANZAC line. The men of the first assault wave were mown down and the commanding officer defied orders and called off the attack. Darcy was withdrawn from the front line in September and was evacuated from the Peninsula on 11 November 1915.

Back in Egypt, the 2nd Light Horse joined the ANZAC Mounted Division. The troops were initially deployed to protect the Nile Valley from pro-Turkish Arabs. By May they were sent to safeguard the Suez Canal, where Darcy was involved in the Battle of Romani.

On 17 November 1916, he was sent to the 26 Casualty Clearing Station and transported by hospital train back to Cairo. Darcy had suffered a minor injury to his left calf muscle and was discharged after five days. He was then transferred to the ANZAC Police Corps and served out the remainder of the War in the Middle East.



In Cairo on 26 October 1918, Darcy was breaking in a horse when it bolted. Both were hit by a train, crushing Darcy's chest and killing the horse. He was repatriated home on the hospital ship "Port Darwin", arriving home on Boxing Day 1918, four years and 7 days after he had left. Darcy was officially discharged on 26 February 1919 but maintained his involvement with the Light Horse Brigade.

In November 1941, Darcy re-enlisted in the Australian Army, becoming a lieutenant. He worked as an instructor of troops in Brisbane, so May, Mavis and Raymond relocated to Toowong. Beryl had married Donald Beanland the previous year. However, Darcy's job meant they did not see him often and his previous war injury meant he suffered ill health. He was discharged in 1944 and the family moved back to Stony Creek for four years before he finally retired to Archer Street, Woodford, in 1948.

Darcy was active in the local community. Along with the Rifle Club he was Patron of the Woodford Cricket Club, the first judge at the Woodford Race Course and served on the Caboolture Council. He retired from dairying in the late 1930s but continued cutting timber until the mid 1960s. He supplied the timber used for the Eaton Bridge at Stony Creek, the opening ribbon was cut by Emma Mountford.

Information courtesy of the Eaton family, and an extract from the Eaton Family History 1858 – 2008



HERBERT (BERT) JOHN EATON (1889 - 1917)

Born:	South Pine - 10 September 1889
Parents:	George and Hannah Isabella (Jenkinson) Eaton
School:	Durundur Provisional and State Schools
Occupation:	Teamster
Lived:	Stony Creek



Service:	World War 1
Service Number:	1828
Enlisted:	15 December 1915
Unit:	42 nd Infantry Battalion
Rank:	Private
Died:	4 October 1917 - Battle of Broodseinde Ridge
Buried:	Nine Elms British Cemetery, Poperinghe, Belgium

On New Year's Eve 1915, Bert was given a send off by the locals at Stony Creek. A newspaper article stated ***'Mr Cowie presented the guests with a solid silver watch and in a patriotic speech, urged all present fit for military duty to respond to their country's call.'*** Bert left behind his loving family and fiancé, Polly Ranson.

Due to illness and hospitalisation on arrival in England on 13 October 1916, Bert was not shipped to France until 4 February 1917.

Conditions on the battlefield were a world away from Bert's life in Queensland. By May 1917, he was at Ypres. From here he wrote a letter home to his 13 year old sister:

'Dear Jane

Just a post card in answer to your most welcome letter which I received a few days ago. I hope this finds you well as it leaves me at present. Sam (Ranson) has not arrived here yet ... I got another parcel from Polly (Ranson) the other day. I will close for now with best wishes to all. I remain your fond brother, Bert.'



On 2 October 1917, the men of the 42nd Battalion were given orders for a new offensive to be launched in two days' time. Chaplains gave a special church service. That same day, Bert made out his will bequeathing his personal effects to his father, George. At 6:00 am on 4 October 1917, the Battle of Broodseinde (Ypres) began.

During the battle, Bert received a shrapnel wound to his abdomen. He was taken to OC No 44 Casualty Clearing Station but could not be saved. He died the same day, 4 October 1917. Bert was 28 years old. He was buried at the nearby Nine Elms British Cemetery, Poperinghe, Belgium, in Plot 3, Row D. His personal effects were returned to his family in Australia including a penknife, five coins, letters, notebook, wallet, photos and a cigarette holder. His solid silver watch was missing.



Broodseinde Ridge, Belgium, 5 October 1917. An Observation Post in the Ypres Sector, from which the Australian observers had an excellent view of Becelaere, Keiburg and Passchendaele. This position was captured on 4 October 1917. The men in this photograph are unidentified. AWM E04516.



Information courtesy of the Eaton family, and an extract from the Eaton Family History 1858 – 2008

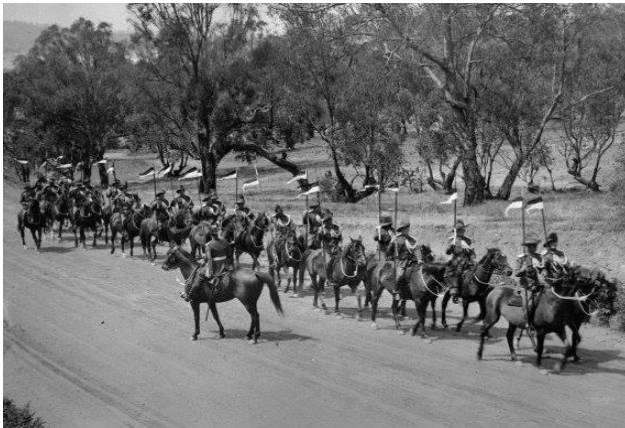


ERNEST (ERNIE) POWELL EATON (1900 - 1977)

Born:	Stony Creek - 12 October 1900
Parents:	George and Hannah Isabella (Jenkinson) Eaton
School:	Durundur State School
Occupation:	Timbercutter
Lived:	Stony Creek

Service: Citizen Military Forces
Service Number: VE/174257
Enlisted: 19 September 1925
Unit: 2nd 14th Light Horse Regiment
Rank: Corporal
Discharged: 28 April 1936

After leaving school, Ernie worked as a timbercutter, like his older brothers - Charles Bert, Darcy and Ollie. They were following in the footsteps of their father and grandfather.



In September 1925, Ernie joined the Citizen Military Forces, enlisting in the 2nd 14th Light

Horse Regiment as a corporal. The Citizen Military Forces were established following WW1 and Ernie served as a farrier. In May 1927, his regiment was selected to travel to the opening of the new Parliament House in Canberra.



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCE

Attestation Form for Persons Voluntarily Enlisted in the Citizen Forces.

1st Lt Ernest Powell Eaton
12 September 1916

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

- What is your name?
(To be written in block letters)
Answer: *Ernest Powell Eaton*
- Where were you born?
Answer: *Woodford*
- Are you a Native-born British Subject or a Person entitled to be so treated?
Answer: *Native-born*
- What is your age and date of birth?
Answer: *24 years 11 months 12 days 12th Oct 1891*
- What is your Trade or Occupation?
Answer: *Teacher*
- Are you Single, Married, or a Widower?
Answer: *Single*
- Have you ever been sentenced in any Court to the State Prison?
Answer: *No*
- Have you ever been in the Royal Military or Air Force?
Answer: *No*
- Have you ever been in the Royal Naval or Air Force?
Answer: *No*
- Have you ever been in the Royal Air Force?
Answer: *No*
- What is your religious belief?
Answer: *Anglican*

I, *Ernest Powell Eaton*, do hereby declare that the above answers are true and that I am willing to serve for a period of *Three* years in the Citizen Military Force.

Signature of Recruit: Ernest Powell Eaton

CERTIFICATE OF EXAMINATION BY ATTENDING OFFICER

The above questions have been put to the above-named Recruit in my presence. I have examined him and find him to be a Native-born British Subject, and that he is entitled to be so treated. I have also examined him and find him to be a Native-born British Subject, and that he is entitled to be so treated. I have also examined him and find him to be a Native-born British Subject, and that he is entitled to be so treated.

Signature of Officer: [illegible]

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION

I have examined the above-named Recruit, and find that he does not present any of the signs of rejection specified in Standing Orders for the Australian Army Medical Service.

His eyes are of the required standard with slight eyes. His teeth are in normal condition and up to the required standard. His heart and lungs are healthy. He has the full use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for service in the Citizen Military Force of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Signature of Medical Officer: [illegible]

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER

I certify that the Attestation of the above named Recruit is correct, and that the required forms appear to have been completed with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to *1st Lt*.

Signature of Commanding Officer: [illegible]



Ernie's bullock team in the main street of Woodford (date unknown)



CHARLES (CHARLIE) EDWARD EATON (1885 - 1959)

Born:	Bunya, South Pine - 18 June 1885
Parents:	George and Hannah Isabella (Jenkinson) Eaton
School:	Durundur Provisional School
Occupation:	Teamster; Timbergetter; Carpenter; Dairy Farmer
Lived:	Stony Creek



Service:	Citizen Military Forces
Service Number:	Q201564
Enlisted:	12 May 1942 - age 56 years
Unit:	G Company 6 th Battalion VDC
Rank:	Private
Discharged:	30 April 1944

The Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) was an Australian part-time volunteer military force of WW2 modelled on the British Home Guard.

Following the outbreak of the Pacific War, the Government expanded the VDC in February 1942. Membership was open to men aged between 18 and 60, including those working in reserved occupations. As a result, the VDC reached a peak strength of almost 100,000 in units across Australia.

The VDC was organised commanded and controlled along State/Military District lines. Battalions were organised regionally and numbered sequentially by State. In Queensland, QLD/1MD - 1 - 23 Battalions

/ Searchlight (Anti Aircraft and Coast Defence Batteries.

As the perceived threat to Australia declined, the VDC's role changed from static defence to operating anti-aircraft artillery, coastal artillery and searchlights. The VDC was officially disbanded on 24 August 1945. *(courtesy Virtual Australian War Memorial)*



Charlie was born at South Pine, the second child and first son of George and Hannah (Jenkinson) Eaton. He was enrolled at Durundur (Woodford) Provisional School in 1892 and remained on the roll until 1896.

After leaving school, he began working as a teamster. Around the time of Charlie's 21st birthday, he purchased "Mountain View", a 400 acre property on Mary Smokes Creek. Covered in ironbark, he would haul the timber to the local mills. He later took sawn timber from the Villeneuve Mill to Caboolture.



Perhaps it was during his travels to Villeneuve that Charlie met his future bride, Mary Jane Thornton, a daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth Thornton of Villeneuve.

Over the next two decades, Charlie and Mary would have 12 children. With such a large family, the house was always a hive of activity. There was little time for outside interests or hobbies but Charlie served on the local school committee and was in the Woodford Rifle Club with his brother Darcy.

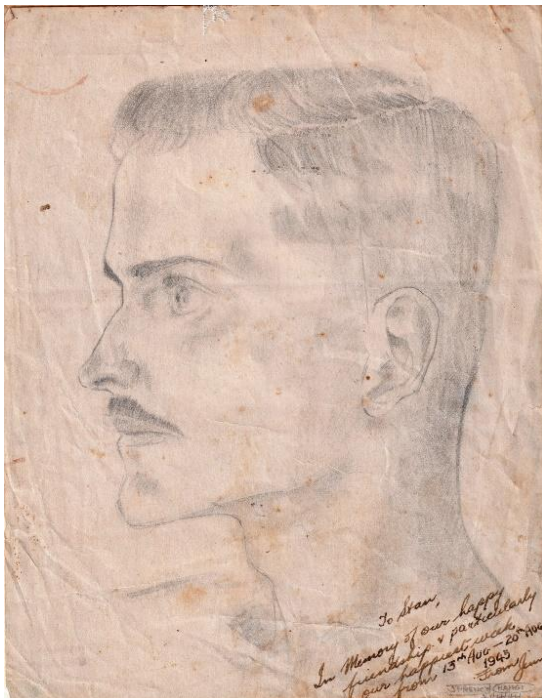
WW2 was to have a huge impact on the lives of Charlie and his family. Even before the war started, five of Charlie and Mary's sons were members of the Light Horse Regiment and their annual holidays were spent away at camp. By January 1942, all six sons had enlisted, each serving in different regiments and all returning home safely.



CHARLES STANLEY SMITH (1919 - 1993)

Born:	Nambour - 19 August 1919
Parents:	Walter Smith and Eveline Butt
Occupation:	Labourer
Status:	Single
Lived:	Conondale and Woodford

Service:	Australian Army
Service Number:	QX20870
Conflict:	Second World War 1939-1945
Enlisted:	Brisbane - 3 April 1941
Unit:	2/10 Australian Field Regiment
Rank:	Gunner
Embarked:	Sydney - "HMT FF", 29 July 1941
Disembarked	Singapore, 16 August 1941
POW:	Yes - Entrained F Force, Burma-Thailand Railway
Recovered:	Changi POW Camp - 8 September 1945



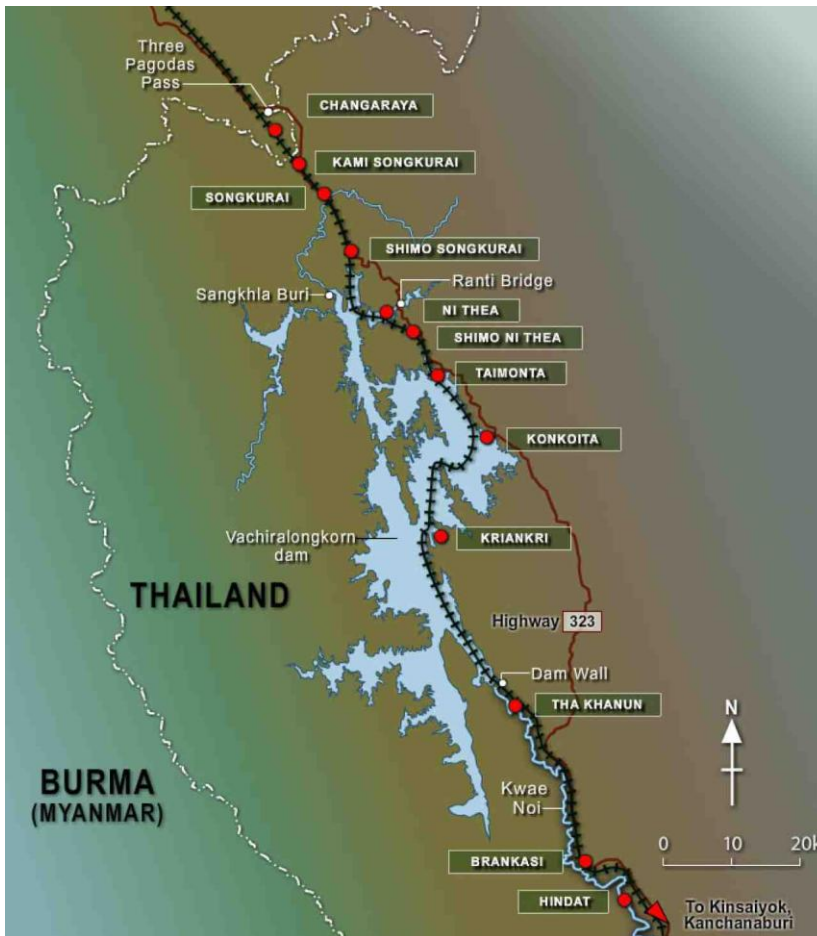
The story of F Force is one of the most terrible of the Burma-Thailand Railway. They were one of the last labour forces to leave Changi, Singapore, in mid-April 1943. F Force consisted of 3,662 Australians and some 3,400 British prisoners of war (POWs). Many of these men, particularly the British, were unwell even before they left Singapore. They were isolated in far up-country Thailand, remote from food and medical supplies and drenched by monsoonal rains. F Force lost 29% (1,060) of the Australian POWs and 60% (2,036) of the British POWs.

F Force's hardships began when they were sent to Thailand by train. Packed into suffocating metal railway trucks with little food and water, even dysentery sufferers had few opportunities to relieve themselves. On reaching Ban Pong in Thailand, F Force was then forced to march over 300 km to camps near the border with Burma



information courtesy AWM

Arriving up-country in early May, F force was ultimately spread across at least six camps progressing towards the Burma border:



- Konkoita (No. 4 camp)
- Shimo (Lower) Ni Thea (Nieke)
- Shimo (Lower) Songkurai (No. 1)
- Songkurai (No. 2)
- Kami (Upper) Songkurai (No. 3)
- Changaraya (No. 5).

From May to October 1943, as the railway progressed, POWs moved between these camps. Australians were mostly located at Shimo Ni Thea, Shimo Songkurai, Kami Songkurai, Konkoita and Tha Khanun. *(courtesy Anzac Portal)*



Courtesy Australian War Memorial

