

# *The Galloping Ground Scout*



Don Cronin  
10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse  
An Outstanding Horseman

## **By Lloyd Nelson & Jim West**

About this brief history:

Wagin farmer Jim West (a Cronin descendant) and local writer Lloyd Nelson (a one-time neighbour of Don Cronin at East Wagin) have joined forces to commemorate the approaching Centenary of ANZAC and to pull together between one set of covers, much of what is on record about early settlers, the Cronins of Glen Cove, near Bullock Hills in the Central Great Southern and that of their famous folklore son, John O'Donald Cronin – known universally as Don.

Jim did most of the research via his computer and both of the collaborators were surprised at the coverage given Don in the universal media of the day – the Press. The insightful articles about the Cronins and Don in particular, come from the book of Katanning Memories initiated and edited by past Katanning Shire President of Illareen Katanning, Ross Anderson.

Two related articles – Gallipoli Revisited and A Walk Around Wagin on Vincent O'Donoghue have been included to show the dark side of Don's War.

Here are Jim West's memories of the famous Don.

Stories and legends of the great bushman and stockman, Don Cronin were often mentioned at family gatherings; especially of his sense of humour and the legendary stutter. This sent me on the path of researching the history of this relative of our family.

Having heard of his ability with horses, I contacted the Stockman's Hall of Fame to see what information they had about Don. The answer was – none, and it seemed they were not at all interested in this West Australian legend. Being surprised at the disinterest, I began research in other quarters. What a good surprise was in store after spending many hours on the computer discovering what an interesting and varied life he had. Not having a great journalistic ability, I suggested to Lloyd Nelson that he collaborate to put Don's record down for posterity.

One of the first stories of Don I heard from my Grandmother (cousin of Don), Alice West (nee Cronin), often known as Cis. Don, at over 80 years old, was in the Wagin Hospital with a broken leg and Cis went to visit and see how he was. Cis asked how he broke the leg, but Don stubbornly refused to tell. After much quiet persuasion and insistence, Don said, 'Alright I'll tell you, but first shut the door', and he then beckoned Cis to put her ear down near him and he quietly whispered that he'd fallen from his horse on a property in West Arthur. 'But how?' said Cis and he replied that he was hunting kangaroos with his stirrup iron. Strangely, during my research, I found that this was a favourite activity in company with his brothers and the Haddletons as teenagers on the sandplain near Glen Cove.

My research did not solve one of the family stories that I'd often heard. It was said that during the Palestine campaign in WW1, he scouted the wells, enabling the Light Horse to go through the waddies to attack the Turks and Germans from an unforeseen direction at Beersheba. If he did so, it must have been a year previous to the famous charge at Beersheba. The story that goes with this is pure Don Cronin;

After returning later than expected from scouting the wells, he was given a right dressing down from an officer about his lateness. When the officer finished, Don, with his legendary stutter, just said, 'Ddddd-do you www-want to knnn-now where the www-water is or nnnn-not?'

Don was accepted into the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse at Blackboy Hill, and this confirmed to some degree, the great story of his enlistment at 37 years old. The Medical Officer, after his examination, said, 'I'm sorry Mr Cronin, but as you have an impediment, (his stutter) we cannot accept you.' Don's reply was, 'Dddd-do you think I www-want to tttt-talk to the buggers?' The MO immediately enlisted Don.

It was pleasing to read Clem Cronin's memories, especially his mention of the Cronins at Lake Cronin near Forrestonia, east of Hyden. I camped at Lake Cronin in 1980 during a prospecting trip with our metal detector. We believe that we found their camp used during trips to Kalgoorlie (with stores for the miners), from bullet shells and other period paraphernalia found in close proximity to the lake. We also camped at the same beautiful spot where it is still frequented by kangaroos, emus, ducks and dingoes, as described by Clem, but unfortunately no sign of brumbies, which Don used to catch, break and bring back to farming country

for sale. My Grandmother, Cis, had a part-brumby mare called Linda and this mare's mother was from one of Don's trips (to) out Lake Cronin way. Grandma, and my father Cliff, always said she was a magnificent hack. Somewhere, I still have a photo of Grandma riding side-saddle on her.



One regret, is not being able to find out more about the rodeo which Don helped run in Meekatharra in the 1930's with Rough Rider Harry Faber, in aid of the Meekatharra Hospital, as well as more information on the Highwaymen's Dinner, held a number of times in Perth - many of the famous old stockmen attended. Another regret is not researching this while my father was still alive, as I heard many of the stories about Don from him, as well as Peter Moran from the Wagin Hotel.

Don Cronin was selected in a team of rough riders, along with Fred Norrish of Kojonup, to ride against the Americans, but Fred could not go as he was too young, so Don turned the trip down too. He is known to have worked cattle from Queensland to the Kimberley and all the way down to the Murchison. Not many stockmen have wandered so

far. He researched a water buffalo hide industry from Melville Island, exporting skins to the Philippines. Don has made trips driving down the Canning Stock Route to Wiluna and family legend quotes a number of trips.

It is obvious that John O'Donald Cronin was one of the great unrecognised stockmen of the past.

Here is Lloyd Nelson's take on Don:

Don's sister, June, married another Light Horseman, Eddie Jarick of Buchanan Park, East Wagin. They farmed next door to my parent's farm, Boanning. Don, in his later years, spent a lot of time on Buchanan Park and pulled his weight on farm work. In his spare time he could be seen on horseback with his dogs hunting after kangaroos on Jarick's sand plain block, which served as a wide buffer between the Jarick's and Nelson's farms. |



As a youngster in the 1940's, I shared, for some weeks, a ward in Wagin Hospital with Don. Despite his appalling stutter, Don was a lively conversationalist and was inundated with visitors on a daily basis. Although his stutter was as bad as a stutter could be, he was very quick mentally. One afternoon, I listened to him suck in one of his visitors.

'Here I was, Don said, hunting down a bit of baby beef for the stock camp's tea. This was on Victoria River Downs. I was flat tack after a mob I spooked, 44 Winchester rifle in hand, when I was stricken, really stricken by a call of nature. My old recurring dysentery, which I picked up in the desert

in Egypt, had returned to bother me. I pulled up my horse on the narrow track through head height grass and jumped off to do the job. This done, another small mob of cattle come belting along the track totally ignoring me and hard on their heels was about a dozen brumbies. The colt I was riding that day, I later raced him at the Darwin Races, picked up on the brumby fillies and was jumping around every way as I tried to get back in the saddle. What, with one thing and the other, I finished up with my foot in the sssssssss – stirrup, his guest suggested, nnnnnnnoooo, nnnnot at aaaaall, Don says, in the sssssssssSH\*T.’

Among other tales about Don, was one from Dulcie, the new wife of Norm Cronin of Bunkin; a very good-looking girl and daughter of Les Wilmott of Avoca, Moulyinning. She relates – a car pulls up at Bunkin and a tall gaunt man gets out, he tips his lid. I’m Don Cronin he says in his stuttering way. Now that you’re a new Cronin, I thought I’d better pay a visit and check you out.

Another story relates to an anniversary Clay Target shoot held in the field at Yowangup (pronounced Yarnup) Hill, near the radio station mast. Don is a foundation member of the Katanning Clay Target Club. He is chatting to Margery Anderson, wife of George Anderson of Illareen. Whilst he is doing this, he is holding the stock of his ratty old shotgun, a double-barrel one, up. Margery, a noted bridge player, says, ‘why are you holding your gun up, Don?’ Don says, ‘iiiiif I ddddddon’t hhhhhhold mmmmmmy ggggggggun uuuup, Margery, the effing firing pins fffffall oooooout.’

A Kobeelya girl, one of many at this famous Church of England Girls School, who kept horses on site, tells that if someone was having trouble with a stropo horse, the first help they called for was that of Don.

Wagin identity, Peter Marley, has boyhood memories of Don Cronin riding into Wagin on his horse. Immaculately turned out, Peter says, in Light Horse leggings and with an Emu-feathered slouch hat. He always tied his horse under a big pine tree at the back of the Bilston home (just across the lane from the Methodist Church). Peter also added another tale of Don's army time: Taken from Greenmount's Blackboy Hill Army Camp, with a sargeant in charge, they were tasked in survival drill with a swim in the Swan River at Guildford. Don, who was a marvellous swimmer, demurred about entering the water. "Throw him in," the Sargeant says, and they do. Don doesn't surface, swims underwater across the River and hides behind a log. Ten minutes later when everyone, including the Sargeant, is in the water duck-diving to find Don, all was panic. Don then bobs his head up over the log and calls, Ffffooled yyyyou thhhhhhat ttttime.

Reverting to the thread of this history.....  
The Cronins have been in the Great Southern for a very long time. They rode their horses along the route that later was the railway line that brought the original townsite of Wagin Lake, later just Wagin, into being. Water everywhere, they reported – right up to our saddle flaps. In retrospect, they probably rode just a bit south of Wagin in a wet winter. The 'water up to their saddle flaps' quote indicate that their route passed through the traditional area where Wagin Lake overflow made its way over to Racecourse Lake en route to the Lake Chain and eventually to the Blackwood River. This was in the area where Olds Brickworks stood for many years. The Lake fills from the big unnamed creek draining water from Badjarning and Tillellen and there is no

discernible outlet, it just spills back on a wide front in the Brickworks area.

We can now look at the very first exploration by Europeans (the local natives having been in this area since time immemorial) of the area in the vicinity of Cronin's Glen Cove.

On the first of November 1835, at the start of the summer season, the first exploring party camped overnight at about two miles up from the Robinson Road/Dumbleyung Road crossroads. The party was led by Surveyor General John Septimus Roe and included the Governor Sir James Stirling, York sheep farmer Arthur Trimmer, Police Head Rossmore Norcott and others including a native tracker, Migo. The latter was an essential member of the party as he had to find the native wells to water the men and horses. In an aside to all this, later in the trip, Migo nearly drowned at Cosy Corner, Torbay, while swimming out to a small island which Roe named on his survey map 'Isle Migo'. A few days later on this same trip, Roe, perhaps brown-nosing the Governor a bit, named Ellen Peak in the east Stirlings, after Stirlings wife and he called Bluff Knoll, Mount Sir James. Ellen Peak remains Ellen Peak to this day and the Stirling Ranges name stands, but Mount Sir James appropriately didn't stick. Anyway Roe's original Field Book 10 of this expedition said of the area near Glen Cove, quite accurately, 'good grassy country, very fair sheep country'.

We can now fast forward our story a bit and hand over to Lyndsay Cronin, a good chap and again a very good horseman.



swimming, etc. The huge dam in which swimming races were held was Mick's pride and joy. It had been dug out with pick and shovel and tip dray soon after they arrived and occupied ten or twelve people, including family and Aborigines, for six months. It was one of the permanent supplies of water for miles around and Mick was fond of saying, 'God and I are the district's water board'. From this same dam the family watered the vegetable garden a quarter of an acre

CYCLOPEDIA OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

subsequently returning to the district after a year at Toodyay. He then took over the lease of a farm at Mallitup—now Pallinup—where he remained for seven years; and in 1875 went into occupation of the "Glen Cove" Farm, which he had taken up from the Government a couple of years previously. Since that time Mr. Cronin has found ample scope for his energies in the development of this and other properties, covering an extent of 1,400 acres. At one period he took over a pastoral lease from the Government, comprising 20,000 acres, which he used for grazing sheep, and did considerable trade in sandalwood, which at the time was one of the chief industries in the neighbourhood. Another of his ventures took place at the time of the Coolgardie gold rush, when Mr. Cronin was among the first to find his way across country to the scene of the find, with the object of opening up a route to the field from the southern line. This, however, was not used, as the Government hastened the construction of the railway line to the district. These were earlier enterprises, and latterly mixed farming operations have absorbed his attention, together with his public duties, which have included those of Justice of the Peace for the Katanning district, to which office he was gazetted by the Dalglish Government. For ten years he served as a member of the Katanning Roads Board, having been the first mover in the petition to secure this organization for the district. He has filled the office of local treasurer to the Roman Catholic Church, is a member of the agricultural society and of the Katanning Racing Club, of which he was one of the founders. Mr. Cronin married in 1866 Elinor Bridget Noonan, whose father was a Civil Servant of Western Australia when the State was under Imperial control. This lady died in 1885, leaving a family of five sons and five daughters.

MICHAEL CRONIN, J.P., "Glen Cove" Farm, situated 17 miles north-east of Katanning, is a son of Mr. Patrick Cronin, of Youghal, County Cork, Ireland, where the gentleman under review was born on September 4, 1842. He was educated at the National School in his native country, and when twelve years of age sailed by the ship "Berkshire" for Australia with his parents, brothers, and sisters. The boat left Southampton on December 3, 1854, and arrived at Fremantle in March, 1855. Young Cronin was sent to Bishop's School at Perth, and upon leaving this institution became engaged in the bakery trade, continuing



H. C. Billoft, Katanning.  
MR. MICHAEL CRONIN.

until the removal of the family to Pinjarra. He spent three years in occupations incidental to bush life, and in 1861 set out to carve a career for himself. Leaving the parental roof-tree he came to Kojonup, where he worked on a farm for over two years,

20 over part of thought you might be interested in this part of history out of ordinary times. I have a book of history for a new & small house to check on the old days.

What a loss to the Boer War Expeditionary Force. Don, with his skills, would have been the ideal recruit for this force.

This same impediment may have something to do with Don's late entry into the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse. He went to war, not at age 20, but at 37 years and 5 months – to a different war. His friends and contemporaries such as Evan Bain, famous as Sergeant Enie Bain, went much earlier and served with distinction at Gallipoli. Thus Don signed onto the strength of the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse.

As the cover of this history shows, Don was a fine looking man. Six feet one and a half inches in his stockinged feet, twelve and a half stone, black haired, grey eyed. He was quite an eyeful. Don never married. Rumour has it that quite a few young women might have been amenable to a proposal from Don, but didn't have the patience to go through the ordeal of such a stuttering event. Otherwise he was a regular normal chap, his Army Medical Record showing treatment for a bout of venereal disease reflects this, as it does on many, many of his army contemporaries'. From start to finish, Don's army career was in common with many others; comparatively short.

He shipped overseas on HMAT Ulysses from Fremantle on 1/4/1916 and came back on the Beerara (not a bad name for a soldiers ship), leaving Suez on 23/8/1917. Of his 20 months of active service, he spent, in total, nearly four months off and on, in hospital, but then he wasn't a young soldier and conditions in the desert were tough. After returning to Glen Cove, now quit of the army, Don took to the North-West, the Northern Territory and Queensland. It is recorded later in this history in the press that he was back at Glen Cove for a couple of months in 1936, after an absence of some 18 years.

Continuing this saga, we can now pass over to Clem Cronin's account of Don's life.

# SOME INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF DONALD CRONIN

*by Clem Cronin*

Among the earliest settlers who selected land to the east of the Police Post of Kojonup were the Quartermaines, Haddletons and Cronins. It was all virgin country and they selected their land 30 to 40 miles (50 to 65 km) to the north-east.

They all reared large families, ten to twelve being the average size, so it was necessary to grow vast quantities of vegetables, meat and fruit. To obtain stores they had to travel to Albany. This was done by wagon a couple of times a year, carting produce of anything saleable to Albany and back-loading with bulk food such as tea, sugar, flour or anything they were unable to produce themselves. Some time later the Great Southern Railway line was completed from Perth to Albany, with sidings spaced along the way, which then made it possible to have all these necessities brought up by rail.

Most of the families of these early settlers were born in the area and gained the early part of their education by an employed tutor who was perhaps a sailor who had jumped ship and was looking for another way of life, or perhaps a prisoner of the Motherland who had served out his term (and whose only crime had been poaching rabbits, pheasants or grouse), and they were often well educated men. This was their early education, which was perhaps finished off at a school in Albany or Perth.

It was in 1875 that Michael Cronin, at the age of 32, married, with a couple of children, took up land approximately 30 miles (50 km) north-east of Kojonup and 15 miles (25 km) north of Katanning. He called the farm 'Glen Cove', and it was there the remainder of his family were born. Michael was a very quick-witted man and always had a ready-made answer for any occasion, so I suppose it was from him that his third son, John O'Donnel Cronin, known to all in later life as Donald Cronin, inherited his wit and on-the-spot answers.

As Donald grew into boyhood it became evident that he would in time be quite a good athlete. He could run, swim and was a good rifle shot and an excellent rough rider. Many stories have been told of his

exploits as a buckjump rider. His quick wit often served him in good stead, and although he had the most frightful impediment in his speech and it took twice as long as normal to get out an answer, it was always a good one when it got there, much to the appreciation of his listeners. The one fortunate thing about his disability he had was that he could treat it all as a big joke. Such as when one time he was with another man who also stuttered, travelling along the road by horse and cart. Donald saw a snake cross the road just in front of the horse. He broke the silence and the conversation went something like this: 'S-s-say Reg, d-d-did y-you s-s-see that b-b-bloody s-s-snake cross the road?'

'N-n-no Donald, k-k-kind of w-w-where D-D-Donald?'

'Ab-ab-about half a b-b-bloody mile back.'

When he was about 17 he decided to take part in the State swimming carnival which was being held in Albany. The swimming events took place in a fenced-off portion, 200 yards (183 m) in length, beside the town jetty. The competitors jumped in one end and swam like hell to the other, and the first there was the winner of the 200 yards freestyle championship. Donald got there first and, on being declared the winner, was interviewed by a reporter from the local press. 'Tell me Cronin, where did you learn to swim?'

'In-in-in the b-b-bloody water, which w-w-was the b-b-best p-p-place I know.' This reply was typical of the quick rejoinders of which he was capable.

Donald spent a great deal of his time catching wild horses (or brumbies, as they were known). His favourite hunting ground was at a freshwater lake about 50 or 60 miles (80 to 100 km) east of Hyden. This lake was discovered in 1893 by Michael and Willie Cronin (Don's eldest brother) whilst they were endeavouring to cut a track through to the newly discovered Goldfields of Kalgoorlie. They named the lake 'Lake Cronin'. A few days before discovering it they had come across a campsite which had been used the day before by John Holland's party (they later found out) as he too was cutting a track through to the Goldfields. It was to be known as 'Holland's Track'.

They were so pleased at finding this lake of beautiful fresh water that they camped for a few days to give their horses time to freshen up. They also discovered that a great many wild animals used the lake as a watering place, including kangaroos, dingoes, ducks in plenty, and also a large mob of brumbies. Quite a few years later Donald took to catching these brumbies and taming them ready for sale to various buyers at good prices, for in those days there was a big demand for horses. They were not very big, an average size of about fourteen hands. Quite a few of them had peculiar markings, mousey grey or fawn in colour, with black mane and tail and an inch-wide black stripe right down the back. Trotting horses were becoming popular, and were in demand on account of trotting races being organized. These horses were known as square-gaited trotters as opposed to the pacers we see in

harness racing today.

At a dispersal sale Donald purchased a trotting stallion, a good-looking horse about sixteen hands high, named 'Convince', but because of an obstruction in his windpipe he was unable to take part in racing. Donald inserted a breathing tube into the windpipe which worked quite well, but made a whistling noise which increased in volume as the horse increased speed. He claimed that it was a good way of warning the other drivers you were coming through. Donald used this horse for breeding purposes and produced some excellent sulky horses which could travel effortlessly mile after mile. Donald then decided to go up North cattle droving and spent a few years on various cattle stations, sometimes droving, sometimes breaking horses. There was always a demand for a good horse breaker.

It was during these years that he earned the name of 'Shower bath Don'. As stated earlier he stuttered badly, and when he got excited while relating some funny incident, the spit was inclined to fly, so out of consideration to his listeners, he would place his hand, fingers spread, in front of his mouth, which his mates reckoned created the effect of a shower bath, hence the name.

At the outbreak of the First World War Donald came back down south. This was in 1914 and a very dry year, everybody being anxious for rain. He was given a welcome home party and everybody was there. Someone asked him if he thought it would rain and he just replied 'Yes', then went on to add, 'It-it-it w-w-will be dry a b-b-bloody l-l-long time if-if it doesn't'.

When the First World War was declared Donald joined the 10th Light Horse and spent the war years in Egypt. Each volunteer had been encouraged to take his own horse with him overseas as it was difficult to obtain sufficient horses for everyone. A few of the men had taken young stallions which had passed through undetected when boarding for departure took place. It was after their arrival in Egypt that these young horses became disturbed, when mixed with the other horses. The Commanding Officers decided that they would have to be destroyed (there were about half a dozen of them). The order was 'Take them out and shoot them'. Donald got permission to speak to the CO and he said, 'D-d-don't sh-sh-shoot them, l-l-let me castrate them'.

The CO replied, 'That's no good, in this heat they will only die'.

'W-w-well,' said Donald, 'W-w-won't they d-d-die if you shoot 'em?'. So it came to pass that the 10th Lighthorse had six more geldings.

Homing instinct is almost a natural thing for most animals, whereas there are only a few people who possess it, and in most cases it is people who have lived their entire lives in the country and have always had to maintain a sense of direction in order to find their way to their destination. Donald was one of the gifted ones and always seemed to know in which direction lay home. The Great Sandy Desert of Egypt is sandhill after sandhill and the only change of scenery is another

sandhill, so the Desert Patrols, which were a regular part of their training, depended on compass bearings.

On one particular patrol a platoon of men were a whole day overdue in returning to base, and as darkness set in, the officer in charge decided they would stay out one more night. Being short of rations and water due to staying longer than anticipated, Donald requested to speak to the CO. 'W-w-we are sh-sh-short of w-w-water and t-t-tucker. If you l-l-let me have a p-p-packhorse I can n-nick over and get s-s-some. I c-c-could be b-b-back in an hour.'

'And where are you going to get these supplies?' asked the CO.

'Just over the s-s-sandhills a m-m-mile or so, a-a-at the b-b-base camp. We sh-sh-should have t-t-turned off t-t-to the right half a mile back.'

The CO was slightly taken aback, but quickly regained composure. 'I was wondering if anybody had noticed that', he said.

'It-it-it's a f-f-funny thing, I was wondering the same thing m-m-myself', replied Donald.

'Well now that the information is out', said the CO, 'we will mount up and go back'.

'J-j-just one question please sir,' said Donald, 'Wh-who is g-g-going to g-g-go in front?'

When the war was over and the troops came home, it took some time to become accustomed to living the life they had had before going away. Donald seemed to feel that life in the north of the State would be more to his liking, so he left and went back to the station country where he had worked before the war, once again boundary riding, horse breaking and cattle droving, which included a couple of trips across the top end.

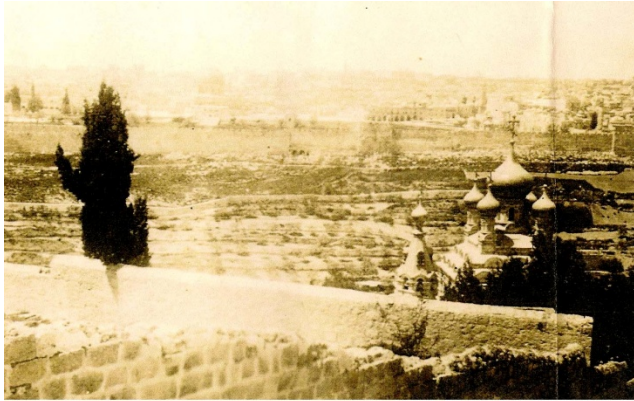
On one of these droves, when about half-way to their destination, something spooked the cattle and they had a full-scale stampede on their hands which resulted in the loss of a few of the animals. After all the cattle had been rounded up again it was found one of the riders was still missing. Donald was dispatched to find him and bring him in. After an intense search he found the man's horse and, leading it, he back-tracked and eventually found the rider, who had been killed in the fall. He had a great deal of difficulty in draping the man over the saddle as the horse was not quite used to such a burden, and more difficulty in preventing him from sliding off, but eventually got him back to camp. When the Boss came out to help unload the corpse he was surprised to see a lot of blood on the saddle. He asked Donald how it came to be there. Donald said, 'It-it-it was hot and h-h-he was all p-p-puffed up and k-k-kept sliding off, s-s-so I-I-I had to g-gut him t-t-to get him to st-st-stay on'.

Donald continued to work at horse breaking and droving until the time when he brought a mob of pretty wild cattle from the Northern Territory to the port where they were to be loaded aboard ship. There were a few bulls among the herd which were fairly savage, and it was

during loading operations that Donald was gored by one of them. He was severely injured, sustaining broken limbs, a dislocated back and several internal injuries. He had to be taken by boat to Perth to be treated, as at that time it was the only place in the State where they had the facilities for treating such extensive damage. He remained in hospital for some months, and when eventually discharged, he realized that he would no longer be able to go back North to the kind of work in which he had been previously engaged.

He came back down south and obtained a job as stockman on one of the bigger properties in the district where he had lived as a child. There he remained to live out the remainder of his life, a popular figure who was a legend in his own time. He died on 28 November 1955.

## A Montage of Don Cronin's War

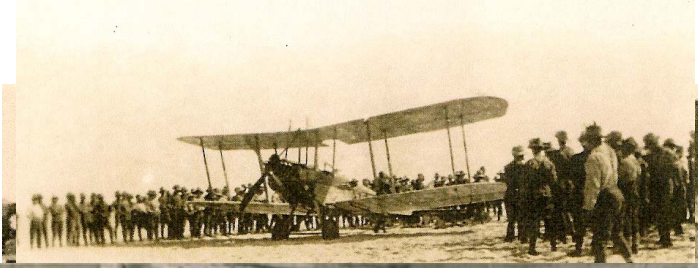


The Gardens of Gethsamane in Jerusalem









Donald Cronin - son of Michael and Eleanor



Michael Cronin and Family - taken at Glencoe 1905 by John Walter who married Mary Cronin 1907  
L to R Back Row - Frank, Harry, Donald, Florrie, Willie  
Front Row - Eleanor, Edwin, Mary, Michael, Anna

## Gallipoli Revisited

an ANZAC tribute

A great many young and not so young men who walked around their local areas and were seen at the football on Sundays, disappeared en masse in 1914 to the training camps and thus to the Great War. 'The war to end all wars.' Harry S Truman, President of USA made probably the most famous comment on this tragic event. He was there in the Field Artillery.

"It's a pity," he said, "that this war didn't live up to its billing."

Many, of course never returned home, their names appeared on their local War Memorial in due course; mostly in the 1920's. There were lots of them and though forming only a part of the British war effort for King and Country, our men left an indelible mark on our military and nation's history. We remember them on ANZAC day.

Everyone, I am sure, is aware of the appalling mission impossible set for them on the heartbreaking slopes of the Gallipoli Peninsular against a well-entrenched and equipped enemy, but not everyone is aware of the background that brought this all about.

The Young Turks, (the expression is cemented into our language today still) namely Mehmed Talaat, Ismail Enver and Ahmed Djemal, due to diplomatic skill and army backing, got their hands on the reins of Turkey. In taking over the tottering Ottoman Empire part of their appeal to the masses was their promise of

tolerance of the minority groups so strong in Turkey, and they did display this openly for just a while. They then declared Turkey was for the Turkish only and set about vigorously killing or disenfranchising the business and intellectual brains of the country expressed through Greeks, Armenians and Jews. They formed a quartet with the wily old Wangenheim, the German Ambassador and Germany eagerly filled the gap left by the minorities, by making skilled military instructors and men available and most importantly, opening the doors of their immense arsenals of industrial Germany to Turkey.

The Turks, riflemen born, but not at all technical, did the soldiering, but German hands were on the buttons of the machine guns, manning the artillery, providing the so important communications and heading up the building of the fortifications. Later, they also drove the tanks. They also effectively flew the spotter planes.

The Young Turks surely pushed the boundaries, invaded the Russian Caucuses and combined with the might of the German Navy to bombard the Black Sea ports. Russia, as in World War II, loudly demanded a diversionary effort and Kitchener, British Minister for War, stuck with fighting a new type of war in the fixed trenches of the Western Front, where little change occurred despite all efforts for years, gave support for the Dardanelles thrust.

Some short-sighted direction took place. The initial idea was for the Navy to break through the Straits and shell the War Office in Constantinople and hopefully to topple the Young Turks from what was looked upon as an insecure seat in the saddle. The British Navy changed leadership in midstream and the naval action failed. General Sir Ian Hamilton, GOC of this campaign

consulted particularly with General Birdwood. Birdwood was Quartermaster General of the Indian Army and in charge of the Australians here. In concert with the Navy, who were keen to get out of action in the Straits, they essayed to attempt the impossible and landed in three spots at Gallipoli between March and August to augment the initial naval thrust.

The Turks, soldiered by Germany's Liman von Sanders and motivated strongly by Kemal Ataturk (whose statue overlooks Ataturk entrance to Albany Harbour) were focused and very strongly entrenched. It was downhill going for the Turks, while the British operated on formidable uphill terrain and under perhaps, poor Generalship.

Kitchener later visited Gallipoli and said one word – evacuate. This they did over December and into January 1915. This had a galvanising effect on the Turks; they had seen off the mighty British Navy and the Allied Army in less than a year. They loudly proclaimed this as their victory and almost straight away had a crack at taking the Suez Canal. The Allied Army saw them off in this effort smartly and regrouped in Egypt.

Due to the vicious attrition of the French Army at Verdun, the British Command pressured General Murray to promptly dispatch the best troops to the Western Front to help relieve the new pressures on the British there. Thus, many men went off to the quagmire of France. Hamilton bore the blame for Gallipoli and ultimately, so did Winston Churchill – both fell. Hamilton was put out to pasture and was never again employed by the British Army. General Birdwood narrowly escaped



LORD KITCHENER (LEFT) INSPECTING ANZAC FROM RUSSELL'S TOP  
Beside him is General Birdwood.

the odium. A brave man who often visited the front, he was eclipsed later by General Monash and left in lesser command.

General Sir Archibald Murray, one time Chief of Staff to General (later Field Marshall) Sir John French in the early war in France, now set out on the slowest advance in history. His advance to attack Palestine to dislodge the Turks there was through the Northern Sinai Desert wastes and he had to build as he went, water pipelines, railway lines and metalled roads in order to get his guns, men and horses over. He got there and had two attempts to take Gaza, of which the net result was, that taking so many men out of Egypt to France and fearful of another Gallipoli, the British detached General Edmund Allenby from his efforts at Ypres and sent him over to re-invigorate things in Palestine.

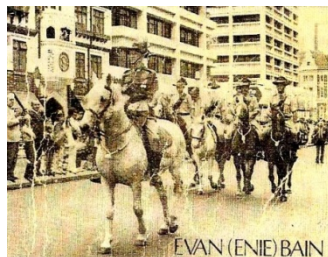
A very unlovable and contentious man, Allenby is generally believed to be the British General that CS Forester based his remarkable novel, 'The General', on. It was published the year Allenby died; nevertheless, Allenby was very lucky to escape the morass of France and the collective blame for such an unimaginative campaign there and to have the totally unshared glory of a rise to fame and fortune, by commanding a force rich in cavalry, something he was very good at. The army generally believed that it was Allenby's orders that precipitated the madcap charge at Beersheba. In actual fact, Sir Harry Chauvel had made the key decision and ordered the charge earlier in the day. The rest is history, glorious history, for the Australians there on the day.

In my younger days on the farm at Wagin, I often heard the charge discussed. My father, Hubert Nelson, and other Waginites were there. Dad's strongest memory of that day was rounding

up the prisoners from the main and secondary trenches. He said there was a milling mob of riderless horses everywhere, absolutely everywhere. Because of this connection, in the late sixties I usually attended the annual Light Horse Memorial Service, held at their monument, west of the main war memorial. The old Light Horsemen, many of whom I knew at least by sight, laid wreaths of flowers for their mates and touchingly, tiny sheaves of hay for their horses, calling their names as they laid the sheaves: Jim, Tiny, Trooper, Brown Bob, Ginger, etc. The horses, as is widely known, thousands of them, were shot in the desert at the end of the war, except one, that a (presumably) moneyed trooper brought home. It's in the history books, but I've never tracked down the details.

The old soldiers, characters to a man, would stand and chat around the memorial after the service. I remember Sergeant Evan (Enie) Bain, a Katanning farmer and later of Woodlands Station, Meekatharra. A very tall man; he buried his brother at Gallipoli. He told me, or the group, that bored soldiers in Egypt used to jump the boat in Alexandria and find their way to the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse camp on Gallipoli. About 15 years after this conversation, he wrote his memoirs and I quote from these:

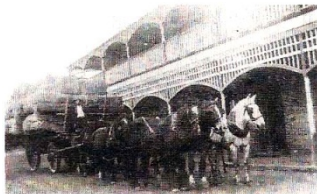
'One most vivid in my memories was Tom Lakeland, who reported to the orderly room, was put on the mat for deserting the Horse Lines in Egypt, where his job had been feeding horses and exercising them for five months, and was fined a day's pay for desertion. The Sergeant Major sent him to my troop with instructions to be put on the strength of my troop and issue him with rations. I



issued him with rations and told him to join a lookout with others of his mates. Twenty-four hours later, one of his mates came in to say Tom Lakeland was dead; killed by a sniper. Tom lasted just long enough to pay his fine.'

Others in the group around the memorial included Claude Ainsworth, Adjutant to the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse. A very brisk officer, Dad said. Claude

With acknowledgements to the Pictorial Book - "Dumbleyung"



*Harry Riseborough's Team with 40 bales of wool in front of the Dumbleyung Hotel 1936*

joined up among many at Northam and later managed the Wagin Co-op from depression to wool boom times; Harry Riseborough, the tough old Dongolocking farmer, who carted his machinegun around the

desert on a black pack horse; Jack Holland, original 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse, who ran a men's hairdresser and billiard saloon and bookmakered at the trots. In Wagin Jack said, the very worst privations in his group was when, due to too many horses and too little water, that after the charge, they rode a 36 hour waterless stage back to their original supplies. Stan Bilston from Wagin was usually there and added to the tales.

In getting them talking, I was able to drag up some interesting reminiscences from these old soldiers; for example, who was their biggest hardcase? Zeb Green, they said. Shown a flame in a mosque that had reputedly burned for 300 years, Zeb said, "Time it was out then," and snuffed it with the brim of his slouch hat. It started quite a riot. Zeb, they said, was unlucky; kicked in the stomach by a Transport Command mule at El Arish. Died on the spot. Some of the hardcases said they were tempted to tether the same mule outside General Allenby's quarters.

What was the most interesting sight? They plumped for the thousands of dummy horses that Allenby caused to be erected in the Jordan Valley in 1918. They were designed to fool the German Airmen scoping where the main body of horse was. The idea, helped by men driving wooden sledges behind teams of mules to create a dust storm of movement, was, it seems, very successful.



What was the most impressive sight? Allenby entering Jerusalem on foot via the old Jaffa Gate. Hugo Throssell from Northam, the only Light Horseman awarded a VC, headed the Honour Guard.



The most humorous sight? This, they all said, was without a doubt, the feat of Ground Scout Trooper Tom O'Leary from Maryborough Queensland. He was one of the two troopers who galloped the trenches into Beersheba 80 yards ahead of the main charge, jumped both big trenches and galloped into the centre of Beersheba, capturing a Turkish gun and its six man crew. When his unit officers caught up with him, he and his prizes were in a Beersheba side street. O'Leary was sitting on the gun, .303 gun cocked in his hand, while the gun crew took turns at holding his horse.

“What’s this?” the Captain asks.

“This is my prize,” O’Leary says. “I made the Jackos pull it into this side street in order that it not be claimed by another regiment.”

O’Leary made his point well. The army sort of swapped him a military medal for it. It’s in ‘Gullets War History’. In later years, the locals would ask him how he won his medal and O’Leary reportedly would always reply, “because I stuck to my gun.” The locals would say, “Don’t you mean, stuck to your guns?” “Not at all,” he would reply, “by gun I mean singular, not plural.

Hopefully, this account of casual conversation by very well-known soldiers, now no longer around, may see their reminiscences in print. In the wash up of the famous desert campaign, Britain made some major territory gains, such as Cyprus, Egypt and Palestine. Overall, the Young Turks involvement of their country in war cost them 80% of the former Ottoman Empire. Nevertheless, they went on to found modern Turkey.

Of our men? They certainly made the major contribution that saw Australia come of age.

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<sup>1</sup> This article contributed by local writer, Lloyd Nelson, is in the records of the Australian War Museum in Canberra.



WAR TIME: Hubert Nelson of the 10th Light Horse inspecting a German-built tank knocked out near Gaza.

## A Walk Around Wagin – an ANZAC Tribute

4 - Wagin Argus, Thursday, May 4, 2006

# A walk around Wagin - an ANZAC tribute

An in-depth look at the life and death of a Wagin ANZAC - By Lloyd Nelson

IT IS rather astonishing to think that local young chaps and some not quite

so young, who would have walked around Wagin regularly on a Friday

afternoon disappeared almost en masse in 1915 when they went off to the Great War.

Sixty-seven from Wagin never made it back; their names are on the War Memorial at the swimming pool.

It's an astonishing



Australian Artillery in Noreuil Valley firing at the Hindenberg Line

## **Snippets of Don's Life and his War**

First World War Embarkation Roll – John O'Donald  
Cronin

Service number: 2179

Rank: Private

Roll title: 10 LHR [Light Horse Regiment] - 15 to 20 Reinforcements (April-July 1916)

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of embarkation: 1 April 1916

*John 16.1.16*

Place of embarkation: Fremantle

Ship embarked on: HMAT Ulysses

Ship number: A38

34  
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE—NOMINAL ROLL—continued.

Regt. No.	Name in full.	Rank.	Age.	Date of birth.	World Regt.	Address at Date of Enlistment.	Place of Birth and Address.	Profession.	Date of Enlistment.	A.M.F. Regt. Number.	Service Substitutions.		P.O.				Days absent from duty.	Remarks.
											Regt. No.	Date of Enlistment.	Regt. No.	Date of Enlistment.	Regt. No.	Date of Enlistment.		
10 LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE, 10th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT—15th REINFORCEMENTS—continued.																		
2176	Corbett, Ernest Frederick	Private	23	1891	Farmer	S. Gowanparr, Western Australia	Bocher, Edward James Corbett, Gwent, Western Australia	R.C.	6.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	3	1	0	
2177	Cahley, Edmund	"	45	1870	Bookman	S. Mount Magnet, W.A.	Mother, Mrs. Della Cahley, Woodstock, Western Australia	C of E	6.1.16	..	5	0	3	0	2	0	1	
2178	Coole, John O'Donnell	"	37	1878	Farmer	S. Katanning, W.A.	Father, Michael Coole, Katanning, W.A.	R.C.	6.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	
2180	Colin, Clive Dean	"	37	1878	Miner	M. Manjimup, Western Australia	Wife, Mrs. Gertrude Colin, care of W. B. Martin, Gloucester-st., Waverston, N.S.W.	C of E	30.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	
2181	Conover, William	"	21	1894	Miner	S. Colgate, W.A.	A. Davenport, Bridgetown, W.A.	R.C.	3.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	
2182	Dave, Stanley Donaldson	"	28	1887	Farmer	S. England, and Merriam, Western Australia	Father, James John Dave, Merriam, Western Australia	Unem.	..	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	
2183	Diney, Charles	"	29	1886	Laborer	M. Tambellup, Western Australia	Wife, Mrs. Martha Ellen Diney, care of Mrs. Amya Conroy, W. A.	Wes.	6.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2184	Dixon, Samuel	"	25	1891	"	S. Donkin, Western Australia	Bocher, Peter Dixon, Mandurah, W.A.	R.C.	16.12.15	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2185	Douglas, John Eric	"	27	1888	Hotel-driver	S. Koroora, Western Australia	Mother, Mrs. Mary Rejane, Chertown, Balmby, Victoria	R.C.	4.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2187	Edwards, Thomas William	"	23	1893	Ironmaster	S. Care of Mrs. Harbuck, Beaconsfield, North Fremantle, W.A.	Mother, Mrs. Dea Mary Gannon, Marshall-street, Gea, W.A.	R.C.	7.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2188	Emmington, Reginald Hamilton	"	23	1893	Station hand	S. Beaconsfield, and Yal- loo, Western Australia	Wife, Mrs. Frances Emmington, Elm Vale, Redgones, Western Australia	C of E	21.12.15	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2189	Fair, James Paul	"	20	1896	General	S. Perth, Western Australia	Father, James Paul, Osborne, Western Australia	C of E	7.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2191	Frasier, Patrick Joseph	"	28	1888	Blacksmith	W. Australia	Western Australia	R.C.	6.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2193	Fox, Chas. Walter	"	25	1890	Farmer	S. Beaufort, W.A.	Wife, Mrs. Mary Daly, Beaufort, W.A.	R.C.	..	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2194	Gibbit, Jim	"	19	1897	Miner	S. Manjimup, Western Australia	Mother, Mrs. Alice Gibbit, Manjimup, W.A.	C of E	16.12.15	504 A.E.H.	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2195	Giblin, John Walter	"	24	1891	Carter	S. P.O. Beaufort, Western Australia	Father, John Giblin, 21 St. Wal- ter-st., Perth, Western Australia	Metb.	6.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2196	Grove, Frederick James	"	20	1896	Rail-worker	S. Boulder City, Western Australia	Mother, Mrs. Daphne Grove, 2283 West- ern-st., Boulder City, W.A.	C of E	7.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2197	Hendon, William Augustus	"	23	1893	Farm hand	S. Mandurah, W.A.	Sister, Mrs. Mary Hebble, Fetherton Gully, Care, Western Australia	R.C.	6.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2198	Hawwood, Alfred	"	27	1888	Laborer	S. 117 Dugan-street, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia	Sister, Mrs. Maria Hammond, Edward-street, Beaconsfield, Fremantle, W.A.	C of E	3.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2199	Hazel, Edward	"	21	1894	"	S. Dugan-street, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia	Mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Hazel, 404 Edward-street, Levee Beaconsfield, W.A.	Metb.	13.12.15	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2200	Hedge, William Phelan	"	25	1891	Miner	M. Falcon-street, South Kalgoorlie, Western Australia	Wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Hedge, Falcon-street, South Kalgoorlie, W.A.	R.C.	3.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2201	Hicks, Alfred Norman	"	23	1893	Miner	S. 47 Bunkers-street, West Perth, Western Australia	Father, Harry Archibald Hobbs, 47 Bunkers-street, West Perth, W.A.	C of E	20.12.15	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2202	Hicks, Cecil Ray	"	18	1898	Laborer	S. Mount Magnet, W.A.	Mother, Mrs. Helen Victoria Hicks, Sandstone, C.O.	R.C.	27.11.15	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2203	Jahson, William Edward	"	27	1888	Railway porter	S. 502 Main, Transcontinental Line, Western Australia	Mother, Mrs. Annie Jahson, Mandurah, Western Australia	C of E	7.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2204	Jahson, Charles Henry	"	28	1887	Timber-worker	S. Dampier, Western Australia	Brother, John Jahson, Northshore, Mandurah, Western Australia	R.C.	6.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2205	Jolly, Samuel James	"	20	1896	Farmer	S. Benger, Western Australia	Wife, Mrs. Mary Jolly, Benger, Western Australia	R.C.	1.12.15	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2209	Lockwood, Walter Edward	"	28	1887	Laborer	S. Chatter, Western Australia	Wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Lockwood, Chatter, Western Australia	C of E	2.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2210	Lynn, Herb	"	44	1872	House-driver	S. Havelock, Western Australia	Chatter, Western Australia	C of E	7.10.15	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2211	Lulu, William John	"	40	1876	Laborer	M. Dig Swamp, and Leederville, Perth, Western Australia	Wife, Mrs. Sarah Lulu, Main Camp, Perth, Western Australia	C of E	6.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2214	Lynch, Joseph	"	29	1887	Outr.	M. G.P.O., Perth, Western Australia	Wife, Mrs. Emma Elizabeth Lynch, 1011 Main-street, Fremantle, W.A.	R.C.	6.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2215	Lavery, John	"	20	1896	Miner	M. Kiny, Western Australia	Wife, Mrs. Annie Lavery, Kiny, Western Australia	Pres.	16.11.15	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2217	Martin, Henry	"	27	1888	Laborer	S. 23 Hedley-street, North Perth, W.A.	Father, Joseph Martin, 23 Hedley-street, North Perth, Western Australia	R.C.	6.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2218	Martin, Arthur	"	20	1896	Laborer	S. Waite, Western Australia	Father, Thomas Martin, 111 Hill-st., Perth, Western Australia	C of E	7.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2219	Mayo, William Hilda	"	23	1893	Farm hand	S. Beverly, Western Australia	Mother, Mrs. Agnes Mayo, 23 Dumbarton-st., Perth, Western Australia	C of E	5.1.16	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2220	Miles, Charles	"	25	1891	"	S. Ogas Valley, and Northshore, Western Australia	Brother, Thomas Miles, Northshore, Western Australia	C of E	..	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0
2221	Moly, Thomas	"	28	1888	"	S. Care of F. Murphy, North Perth, Western Australia	Mother, Mrs. Thomas Moly, North Perth, Western Australia	Metb.	6.11.15	..	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
2223	McArthur, Norman Arnold	"	21	1895	Farmer	S. Tambellup, Western Australia	Mother, Mrs. Martha McArthur, Tambellup, Western Australia	Metb.	..	..	5	0	2	0	4	0	1	0

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AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

15th Regiment  
10th L.I.H.

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

## Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

2179

Name CROWIN John O Donald

Unit 41 depot

Joined on 6.1.18

### Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? J. O Donald Crowin

2. In the Parish of \_\_\_\_\_ in or near the Town of Katanning in the County of W.A.

3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) N.B.

4. What is your age? 37 Years

5. What is your trade or calling? Fanner

6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? No

7. Are you married? No

8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Father Michael Crowin Katanning

9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? No

10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? No

11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge No

12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Yrs.

13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? Rejected for lack of impediment of speech

14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? Yr.

15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? Yr.

I do solemnly declare that the above answers made to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allow not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service to be support of my wife and children.

Date

J. O Donald  
Signature of person enlisting.

\* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.  
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER.

The foregoing questions were read to the person enlisted in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to by him.

I have examined his naturalization papers and am of opinion that they are correct.

(This to be struck out except in the case of persons who are naturalized British Subjects.)

Date 6. 1. 16

R Skinner Lieut.  
Signature of Attesting Officer.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY PERSON BEING ENLISTED.\*

3. J. O'Donnell Cronin swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the Australian Imperial Force from 6. 1. 16 until the end of the War, and a further period of four months thereafter unless sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed, or removed therefrom; and that I will resist His Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and maintained; and that I will in all matters appertaining to my service, faithfully discharge my duty according to law.

So HELP ME, God.

J. O'Donnell Cronin  
Signature of Person Enlisted.

Taken and subscribed at Blackboy Hill,  
the State of Victoria  
this 6 day of January of  
1916, before me—

R Skinner Lieut.  
Signature of Attesting Officer.

\* A person enlisting who objects to taking an oath may make an affirmation in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Act, and the above form must be amended accordingly. All amendments must be initialed by the Attesting Officer.

3

Description of CRONIN John O. Donald on Enlistment.

Age 27 years 5 months.  
Height 6 feet 1 1/2 inches.  
Weight 176 lbs.  
Chest Measurement 39 inches.  
Complexion Dark  
Eyes Gray  
Hair Black  
Religious Denomination A.C.

DISTINCTIVE MARKS.

*Three vaccination marks on right arm.*

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I HAVE examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz:—

Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; hemorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see the required distances with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for active service.

Date 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 1916  
Place Belvedere

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been compiled with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to 1574 411

Date 29 FEB 1916

Place BLACKBOY HILL.  
D. 2774.15—C. 607.

Commanding *[Signature]* Lt. Col.  
Camp Commandant

Statement of Service of No. 2179 Name

J. O'Donald Cronin

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks
		From—	To—	
41. depot.	Private	6-1-16		C/o 655
15/10 L.H.	Pvt	10/1/16		C.O 658
Strength	Transf. from 10 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Received Squadron	7-6-16		Pr 54 II 1432 4-7-16.
Sick	To Hosp (Neurology) Railhead	28-6-16	14	Pr 50 II 1357 11-7-16
Appointment to be	Shoring Division	19-1-16		Pr 53 II 1574 11-7-16
Hosp.	Disch. from Hosp.	6-7-16	Out	Pr 54 II 1613 19-7-16
	Taken on Strength 3 <sup>rd</sup> Field Coy Regt	26-6-16		Pr II 3507 18-5-16
	Sick to hosp.	22-7-16		Pr II 447 11-300 19-10-16
	Sick to hosp.	3-8-16		Pr II 447 4326 19-10-16
	Despatch. Adm. H. Cust. Gen Hosp.	1-11-16		Pr II 527 2157 30-11-16
Transfer	Transf. in to Amoyac Intd. Ser. Depot 41st Div. Attached to 5 <sup>th</sup> Coy.	4-9-16		Pr II 63 21-9-16 1993
	Off. Gen. Hq. to Hosp.	6-11-16		Pr II 51 21-11-16 2650
	To Hospital ad.	2-11-16		Pr II 51 21-11-16
	Returned to Duty	4-11-16		2698
	Discharged to Unit X 14. Cont. Gen Hospital ad.	4-11-16		Pr II 51 21-11-16 2712
10 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt.	In Strength 5 <sup>th</sup> Depot. Ser. Division. Recruit. Class 'B'.	Sept. 23-11-16		S.D. 2 18-1-17 142
"	Sick to X Depot. Ser. Division	30-12-16		S.D. 2 18-1-17 156 A
"	Transf. in to X Hospital ad.	4-1-17		S.D. 2 18-1-17 174
"	Buffington. Adm. H. Cont. Gen Hospital ad.	30-12-16		S.D. 2 18-1-17 177
"	ditto	4-1-17		S.D. 2 18-1-17 236

I have examined the above details, and find them correct in every respect.

2179. Sps. Cronin of O. R.		
Reassignment Sps. Do 35/1415 dated 1-8-16		
and is cancelled and the following is substituted - Appointed to Shoeringmill dated 19-1-16 is cancelled "		Do 55-4014 24-10-17 10th L. H. B. 033 Egypt
Returned to duty x Hospital 30-7-16 (with H. A. 57 Egypt)		Do 55-4015 24-10-17
Returned to duty as Hospital 6-7-16 (10th L. H. B. only)		Do 50/2921
Sick to Hospital 3-9-16 "		Do 50/2922

Statement of Service of No. 2179		Name J. V. Donald Cronin		
Unit in which served	Promotions, Reactions, Casualties, &c	Period of service in each rank		Remarks
		From	To	
10th L. H. Regt.	Transf. to 11th L. H. Regt.	7.6.16	24.5.17 1078 35/1415 Egypt	
	Sps. Bearrhocca 11th L. H. Regt.	1-4-17	10.16.17 11th L. H. Regt Egypt	
	Asst. Sec. Hoop		Do 15. 12. 17	
	Sps. Sick to Hoop as Asst. Dep. Stores	1-4-17	11.03 Egypt	
	Sps. Ret. to duty Asst. Dep. Stores	15/4/17	Do 15. 12. 17 1078 35/1415 Egypt	
	Sps. Discharged to Asst. X. 11th Asst. Hoop	15. 11. 17	12. 6. 17 25. 4. 17 11th L. H. Regt. Egypt	
	Sps. September. Adm. 11th Asst. Hoop	23-5-17	23. 5. 17 Egypt	
	Sps. Hoop x Asst. Dep. Stores Charged	23. 5. 17	Do 25. 12. 17 1078 35/1415 Egypt	
	Sps. Sick to Asst. Dep. Stores x 11th L. H. Regt.	4. 7. 17	Do 35/2022 11th L. H. Regt.	
	Sps. Asst. Dep. Stores x 11th L. H. Regt.	5. 7. 17	35/2022	
	Reverted for Australia x Suez for 1st Recon for Discharge	28. 8. 17	Do 25/17 6. 9. 17	
	T.O.S. Asst. Depot Asst. Hoop	6. 9. 17	Do 1. 7. 3. 9. 17 Egypt	
	Marched out to Asst. Hoop x 11th L. H. Regt.	10. 8. 17	Do 113. 306. 28. 8. 17 10th L. H. B.	
	Adm. 11th L. H. Regt. Bk. Beirhwa	10. 8. 17	100. 43. 3090. 28. 8. 17 3-2 T.R.	
	Marched out from 1st Asst. Hoop x 11th L. H. Regt.	8. 8. 17	Do 113. 306. 28. 8. 17 28. 9. 17	
	Adm. 11th L. H. Regt. 1st Asst. Hoop	8. 8. 17	Do 113. 306. 28. 8. 17 28. 9. 17	

Original forwarded to AIF. HQ, London 7-3-18  
 Duplicate " Defence, Melbourne " 2179  
**Casualty Form - Active Service.**

Army Form 100

Regiment or Corps: **10th. LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT (Attached Australian Depot**

Regimental No. **2179** Rank **Trooper** Name **CROWIN John, O'Donnell** (Stones)

Enlisted (a) **5.1.16** Terms of Service (a) **Service reckons from (a)**

Date of promotion to present rank \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment to lance rank \_\_\_\_\_ Numerical position on roll of N.C.O.'s \_\_\_\_\_

Extended \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_

REPORT	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, postings, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form 2, 21A, Army Form A, 26, or on other official documents. The authority to be stated in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks (taken from Army Form 2, 21A, Army Form A, 26, or other official documents)
29.4.16 Regt.	Taken on strength 5rd. Tg.	Rgt. To-El-	28.4.16.	A11325 D.O. 10/3807
15.12.16 3rd. Tg.	Trans. to 10th. L.H. Regt.	Messour	7.6.16.	L.H. 1956 D.O. 5/1078
16.8.16. 10th. Reg.	Taken on strength	Serapeum	7.6.16. A. L. 3317.	AFB213 D.O. 34/1483
31.6.16. do	To be Shoeing Smith	do	19.4.16. A. L. 3491.	444 D.O. 85/1574
31.6.16. do	Sick to Hospital	do	27.6.16. A. L. 3491.	444 D.O. 85/1557
2.7.16. 3rd. L.H.P.A.	Influenza. Admitted	do	27.6.16.	O. 68917.
do	Transf. to Cas. O. Sta.	do	30.6.16.	"
8.7.16. 54th. Cas. P. U. O.	Admitted.	do	30.6.16.	O. 6766
do	C. Sta.	do	6.7.16.	"
8.7.16. 10th. Reg.	Returned to duty	do	6.7.16.	L.H. 19
5.8.16. do	Sick to Hospital	Bally Bunion	22.7.16.	L.H. 933
19.10.17. do	Returned ex Hospital	Shella.	30.7.16.	112/19/37
5.8.16. do	Sick to Hospital	Bally Bunion	3.8.16.	L.H. 933
5.8.16. E. Lane.	Diarrhoea. Admitted	E. R. F.	3.8.16.	O. 69903.
do	Transf. to E. S. Niagara	do	3.8.16.	"
6.8.16. 31st. Gen. Adm. ex E. S. Niagara	Adm. ex E. S. Niagara	Port Said	5.8.16.	R.11925
do	Transf. to Cairo	do	5.8.16.	R.12086
9.8.16. 3rd. Aust. Adm. ex 31st. Gen Hosp	Abbasia	do	5.8.16.	R. 11931
20.8.16. Gen. Hosp.	Trans. to Con. Hos. Montazah	do	19.8.16.	R. 12737
20.8.16. Conv. Adm. ex 3rd. A. G. H.	Montazah	do	19.8.16.	R. 12409
4.9. Hospital Dis. to 2nd. Aust. Con. Hos.	do	do	4.9.16.	R. 15422

REPORT	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, postings, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form 2, 21A, Army Form A, 26, or on other official documents. The authority to be stated in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks (taken from Army Form 2, 21A, Army Form A, 26, or other official documents)
10.9.16. Aust. Dep. Stores	Marched in from Montazah attached for duty	Ghassireh	4.9.16.	L.H. 527 D.O. 4/1935
18.11.17. 10th. Reg. Stores	Reverts to Trooper Returned to duty	E. R. F.	20.7.16.	112/19/37 D.O. 59/3166
5.11.16. 14th. Aust. Stores	Diarrhoea. Admitted	Ghassireh	4.11.16.	L.H. 1535 D.O. 51/2698
5.11.16. 14th. Aust. Stores	Discharged to duty	Abbasia	1.11.16.	R. 16724 D.O. 52/2759
10.11.16. 30th. Reg. Stores	Struck off strength	do	4.11.16.	R. 16837 D.O. 51/2702
23.11.16. 3rd. L.H.P.A. Stores	On strength Depot Stores Permanent Class B	Et Meler	6.11.16.	L.H. 1427 D.O. 51/2690
5.12.16. do	Sick to Hospital	Ghassireh	23.11.16.	L.P. 628 D.O. 2/42
31.12.16. 14th. Aust. Stores	Influenza. Admitted	do	30.12.16.	L.H. 2056 D.O. 2/167
5.1.17. Gen. Hosp.	Discharged to duty	do	30.12.16.	L.H. 2056 R. 18896 D.O. 2/234
7.1.17. A. D. Stores	Marched in	do	4.1.17.	R. 19049 D.O. 2/158
8.1.17. do	Sick to Hospital	Ghassireh	4.1.17.	L.H. 2147 D.O. 2/174
24.1.17. 14th. Aust. Stores	Diarrhoea. Admitted	do	1.2.17.	R. 22543 D.O. 12/1153
17.4.17. Gen. Hosp.	Discharged to Unit.	Abbasia	1.4.17.	R. 22105 D.O. 14/1121
22.4.17. A. D. Stores	Marched in A. 14th. A. G. H.	do	16.4.17.	R. 22531 D.O. 17/1364
23.5.17. do	Marched in A. 14th. A. G. H.	Ghassireh	15.4.17.	L.H. 3784 D.O. 17/1366
24.5.17. 14th. Aust. Stores	Dysentery Adm. Dep. Stores	Abbasia	23.5.17.	L.H. 4651 D.O. 18/1395
5.7.17. Gen. Hosp.	Disch. to Aus. Dep. Stores	do	23.5.17.	R. 25809 D.O. 27/2059
7.7.17. Aus. Dep. Stores	Marched in K. Hospital	Ghassireh	4.7.17.	R. 26189 D.O. 35/2458
15.8.17. do	Marched out to 14th. AGH.	do	5.7.17.	L.H. 5779 D.O. 36/2503
15.8.17. 14th. Aust. Stores	Diarrhoea. Admitted	Abbasia	15.8.17.	L.H. 5808 D.O. 43/3136
23.8.17. Gen. Hosp.	Diarrhoea. Trans. to Serapeum for Australia	do	15.8.17.	R. 26221 D.O. 43/3090
1.9.17. Aus. Dep. Stores	Taken on strength	Ghassireh	16.7.17.	102/17/45 D.O. 1/7
23.8.17. A. I. F. N. Stores	Chronic Diarr. Returned to Australia per "Bearara" for discharge.	Suez	23.8.17.	127/5/63 D.O. 2/92

..... Captain.  
 O.C. Australian Records.  
 3rd. Echelon A. I. F. (Egypt)

Original forwarded to AIF HQ London, 7-2-18.

Army Form B. 101

Casualty Form - Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 10th Light Horse Regiment (attached Australian Light Horse)  
 Regimental No. 2179 Rank Trooper Name SCHEIN, John J. Small  
 Enlisted (a) 4/1/16 Terms of Service (a) Service regions from (a)  
 Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank Numerical position on roll of N.C.O's  
 Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b)

REPORT	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc. during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 24, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks (taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 24, or other official documents.)
20/4/16 Rgt	Taken on strength 10th L.H. Rgt	Rgt Telegraph	19/4/16	A1398 D/O 10/2607
15/12/16 Rgt	Trans to 10th L.H. Rgt	Telegraph	7/5/16	L.H. 1058 D/O 5/2076
16/8/16 10th Rgt	Taken on strength	Scrapen	7/8/16	L.H. 8317 AFB15 D/O 341484
31/8/16 "	To be shoeing smith	"	19/1/16	A.L. 3461 D/O 35/1874
"	Influenza sick to hospital	do	27/8/16	A.L. 3491 D/O 35/1857
2/7/16 3 L.H. Rgt	Influenza sick 27/6/16 trans to G.O.S. 30/6/16	do	30/6/16	C-8317
2/7/16 14 D.C. Det	P.O. adm 20/6/16 dis to duty 2/7/16	do	2/7/16	C-8766 D/O 36/1615 Exd 19/10/16 C-8766
6/7/16 Rgt	Returned to duty	do	6/7/16	L.H. 19 D/O 30/3721
5/8/16 Rgt	Sick to hospital	Bally Munion	22/7/16	L.H. 933 D/O 47/2200
16/10/17 Rgt	Returned ex hospital	Shelmal	30/8/17	112/10/37 D/O 35/4015

REPORT	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc. during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 24, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks (taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 24, or other official documents.)
5/8/16 10th Rgt	To hospital sick	Bally Munion	3/8/16	L.H. 933 D/O 50/3722
5/8/16 E Lane	Diarrhoea and trans to Niagara	E.R.F.	3/8/16	C 6900
6/8/16 11 G Hosp	Adm ex 11 Lane E/Amb	Port Said	5/8/16	R1295 D/O 49/3475
9/8/16 "	Trans to Cairo	do	6/8/16	R1296
9/8/16 3 ADM	Adm ex 31st Gen Hosp	Abassia	6/8/16	R1291 D/O 49/3475
20/8/17 "	Trans to Gen Hosp	"	1/8/16	R1297
20/8/16 Gen Home	Adm Ex 3rd. A G Hosp	Montazah	16/8/16	R1298
1/9/16 do	Dis to 3rd Aust Gen Hosp	do	4/9/16	R1299 4/9/16
10/9/16 AMO	Marched in from Montazah Depot to be attached for duty	Ghezireh	4/9/16	L.H. 827 D/O 42/1003
15/9/16 Rgt	Returned to strength	E.R.F.	30/9/16	112/10/37 D/O 35/4015
15/9/16 Rgt	Returned to strength	E.R.F.	30/9/16	112/10/37 D/O 35/4015
1/11/16 Aust	To hospital 1/11/16	Ghezireh	4/11/16	L.H. 1335 D/O 51/2098
2/11/16 14th AGH	Diarrhoea admitted	Abassia	1/11/16	R1274 D/O 35/4728
10/11/16 10th Rgt	Struck off strength	St. Mary	6/11/16	L.H. 1427 D/O 51/2098
22/11/16 Aust	On strength Depot Stores	Ghezireh	22/11/16	L.H. 828 D/O 42/1003
1/12/16 do	Sick to hospital	do	30/12/16	L.H. 3255 D/O 51/2098

REPORT Date	From whom received	Based on memoranda, regulations, histories, corrections, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form 10, 101, Army Form A 35, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks List from Army Form 10, 101, Army Form A 35 or other official documents.
7/1/17	Capt. J. B. Storer	Marched out in front of hospital	Chickamauga	7/7/17	AR 5700, 034/2000
8/2/17	Do	Marched out to 1455 AM	Do	8/5/17	AR 5700, 034/2000 IN 1800
11/2/17	1st Lt. R. E. H. H. H.	Ch. Discharge from 1st Regt. of 1st Div. of 1st Army	Chickamauga	11/2/17	AR 5700, 034/2000
12/2/17	Do	Ch. Discharge from 1st Regt. of 1st Div. of 1st Army for Australia	Chickamauga	12/2/17	AR 5700, 034/2000
1/1/17	1st Lt. J. B. Storer	March on Estab. strength	Chickamauga	1/1/17	AR 5700, 034/2000
2/1/17	1st Lt. J. B. Storer	Returned to active duty in 1st Regt. of 1st Div. of 1st Army for discharge	Chickamauga	2/1/17	AR 5700, 034/2000

*J. B. Storer*  
 J. B. Storer, Captain, Records Section  
 1st Division, 1st Army, A. S.

Base Records Office,  
Victoria Barracks,  
MELBOURNE, S.C.I.

1/10/1931.

The Deputy Commissioner,  
Department of Repatriation.

REFERENCE:-

*Rank R 6053*

DATE 25/9/1931.

Herewith documents indicated relative to the  
service of the undermentioned ex member of the A.I.F.

Reg.No.	Rank	Name & Unit.	Documents attached.
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<i>2179</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>Cronin J O'D. 10 LHA</i>	<u>FOR EARLY RETURN:-</u> <del>A.F. B.103</del>
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TO BE RETAINED :-

B.R.Gard ✓

Attestation Paper ✓

A.F. :- B.103 ✓

" B.178 ✓

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

No.

*2179*

Rank

*Pte*

Name

*CRONIN John Donald*

Unit

*10 LHA*

## Great Drivers

Dear "Non-Com."—in regard to the "King of the Road" among the drovers of this State, no doubt Joe Waldeck, in his younger days, took some beating, and for the years he has been on the road he must be given a good chance at the title.

Old Jack Kerney was another good drover. He did some good trips in the old days from Bidgemia to Leonora, when Government wells were few and far between. Of present-day drovers Percy Fitzgerald stands alone. In recent years he has taken from one station on the Gascoyne over 35,000 sheep to Mullewa without loss, and over a stock route which has been drought ridden for some years.

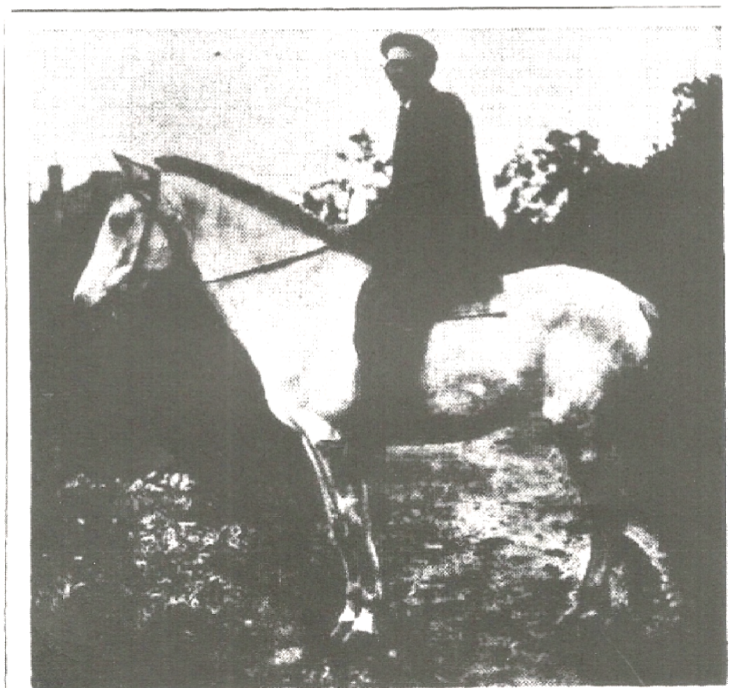
"Just a Mug," of Northam, tells a yarn about an old cattle drover putting it over the Law at the Junction in 1925.

I have heard this yarn quite a few

times, and I think it is much older than 1925. I even heard it from a chap from Queensland, who vouches it really happened in that State over thirty years ago.

"Expert," of Nansen, wants to know who were the original Mad Eight of shearing fame. I can give you their names, as follows:—Saltmarsh, Flemming, Hughie Munro, G. Bene, Sawalish, Tiny Lehman, Nugget Williams and Nat Day.

Speaking of fast shearers, some years ago Joe Herricks shored 162 lambs in two hours at Coorelys. Perhaps Victor Johnson can give the year that this was done.  
GASCOYNE, Carnarvon.



*DON CRONIN, who has figured prominently in the Champion Horsemen series, riding a quiet one.*

**Don Cronin.**

Dear "Non-Com."—I am enclosing a photo of Don Cronin, my uncle, who is known to you as a rough rider, "the chap who stutters a bit," and a "teller of tall yarns." But, "Non-Com," he has another side to those of us who know him well. He is good-natured to a fault, the sort of man who, if he only had half a loaf of bread, would willingly give it to the other chap and tighten up his belt another hole. Many a kindly action he did for us, my sisters, brothers and myself when we lost our mother when we were very young. Don was always the hero of all his



little nieces and nephews, and today he is still the hero of his grand nieces and nephews.

I do hope he was able to attend the Highwaymen's dinner. He had every intention when he left here a few days ago. He has just been home for two months' holiday, the first time for 16 years. He had a wonderful time, as we were all so glad to see him.

**AUTUMN TINTS, Katanning.**

[Yes, Don attended the Highwaymen's Dinner, also the Diggers', and he got a rousing reception when he was introduced to both companies.—"Non-Com."] ]

Don Cronin

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He had a wonderful time, as we were all so glad to see him.

**AUTUMN HINTS, Katanning.**

CTes, Don attended the Highwaymen's Dinner, also the Digger's and he got a rousing reception when he was introduced to both companies. 'Non-Com'!

### Champion Horsemen.

Dear "Non-Com."—I have been following the "champion horsemen" discussion with interest and cannot let the subject close without my say-so. No one wants to pick an argument by nominating a better rider than Harry Faber. I know practically all the men mentioned so far. They are all good horsemen, probably as good as Faber, but as riders not in the same class. Faber as a bare-back rider is in a class of his own.

One of the finest public exhibitions Faber ever gave was in Meekatharra in December, 1923, on a horse called Two Up. I assisted at that show and can say honestly it was the best ride I ever saw. Meekatharra's opinion of Harry Faber was such that had he been prepared to go to the Wembley Exhibition the town and district would have financed the trip.

Harry and all the champions of those days are fading lights, as age must tell. But what a team of champions could have been put together 20 years ago! It would take too much space to mention them, but there was one man who would have taken second place to no one in those days. That was my old cobbler, Donald Cronin. As an all-round horseman there was none better in the State, Harry Faber included.

Now, will someone bite!

172, Meekatharra.

[There's always space for the doings of the team mentioned—and their like. So go ahead—and bite!—"Non-Com."]

National Library of Australia

Western Mail (Perth, WA: 1885 – 1954),  
Thursday 5 August 1937, page 10

### Champion Horsemen.

Dear "Non-Com."—I have followed the champion horseman series with keen interest but being no lover of the pen I have refrained from writing. However "Yathroo" starts me off when he classes Charlie Dodd, of Arino, with horsemen like Don Cronin and Jim Gooch, both of whom were seen in that part of the globe. I have known Charlie Dodd all my life and he is a fine horseman and trainer and few riders have a better seat in the saddle.

But the men who did the riding in those parts when Cronin and Gooch were past were Reg Gibbert, Lew Brown and Barney Brimson, all fine young horsemen and game to the last degree.

Lew Brown, comparing riders one day was heard to say that he rode 'em for a living and stayed on because he was too darn frightened to fall off!

BILL BAILEY, Chittering.

4

Sunday Times (Perth, WA) 24 February 1924, page 15





## MOTOR ACCIDENT

A motor accident occurred on Thursday afternoon last at the VA mile on the road to the io-milc. Mr. Don Cronin was driving a Ford truck and when at the point mentioned, through some unexplained cause, the truck left the road and cannoned into a tree. Mr. Cronin was thrown out, and a blackboy who accompanied him also suffered a like experience. The latter escaped unhurt, but Mr. Cronin was badly bruised and was in great pain. At about 7.30 the police were noti- fied of the accident and Mounted constable Atherton proceeded by car to the scene. As the accident was reported to have occurred at the 5'4-mile, % good deal of time was spent in searching the two roads for the unfortunate victim, and although it is estimated the ac- cident took place at about 3.30 it was not until about 0.30 that he was picked up by the police. Dr. Jones made an examination of the injuries at the hospital, but did not regard them as serious. The truck was badly damaged. » ^

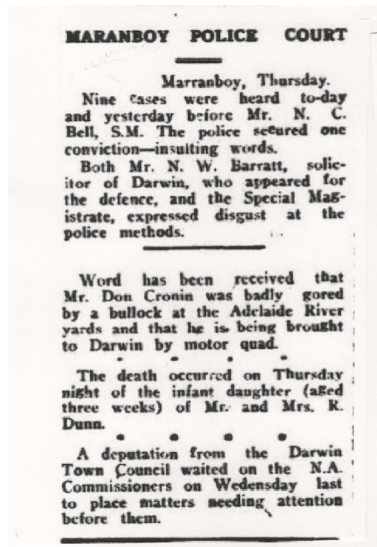
Northern Standard (Darwin, NT : 1921 - 1955), Friday 3 September 1926, page 2

## MOTOR ACCIDENT

A motor accident occurred on Thursday afternoon last at the 7½ mile on the road to the io-milc. Mr. Don Cronin was driving a Ford truck and when at the point mentioned, through some unexplained cause, the truck left the road and cannoned into a tree. Mr. Cronin was thrown out, and a blackboy who accompanied him also suffered a like experience. The latter escaped unhurt, but Mr. Cronin was badly bruised and was in great pain. At about 7.30 the police were notified of the accident and Mounted-constable Atherton proceeded by car to the scene. As the accident was reported to have occurred at the 5¼-mile, a good deal of time was spent in searching the two roads for the unfortunate victim, and although it is estimated the accident took place at about 3.30 it was not until about 9.30 that he was picked up by the police. Dr. Jones made an examination of the injuries at the hospital, but did not regard them as serious. The truck was badly damaged.

8

Northern Standard (Darwin, NT: 1921 – 1955),  
Friday 21 January 1927, page 2



9

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<sup>8</sup> National Library of Australia

<sup>9</sup> National Library of Australia

## ARBITRATION COURT

The hearing of evidence in connection with the Pastoral Industry workers claim is still proceeding. Before his Honor Mr. Justice Rob-

erts.

The Court sat on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from when it was adjourned until Monday, when the sittings were again resumed and are still proceeding today. Another day or two should complete ' the hearing in Darwin.

' For the Union, the following witnesses have given evidence:-Messrs. H. Hansen, R. Weinkup, F., McManes, J. R. Althaus, and Don Cronin is to give evidence today, having been ill. For the Pastoralists:-Messrs. H. J.-Lloyd, Manager of Avon Downs, and W. H. Grant, Secretary of the N.A.L. have given evidence.

Northern Standard (Darwin, NT : 1921 - 1955), Tuesday 15 November 1927, page 2

## ARBITRATION COURT

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Western Mail (Perth, WA: 1885 – 1954), Thursday 17  
December 1936, page 12

## Don Tells Another.

Dear "Non-Com."—It was with great interest that I read the remarks of "Autumn Tints" re my old mate, Don Cronin, and I quite agree with her when she says that Don is good natured to a fault. He is one of the finest chaps one could wish to meet, and Don is always just Don, always the same.

Early in October I was in Geraldton for a few days, and you can imagine my delight in meeting Don again. We had a great day together, and he told me he had just been holidaying in Katanning, and was off on the train that night for Perth to attend That Dinner. I saw his photo among the gathering later, so I know he got there safely.

Don was always a great one for yarns, and in Geraldton he told me this one:—

The rabbits were very bad up where Don came from. "Why," he said, "it is nothing to put a good sized bullock in the yard at night, and in the morning find only the bones, and a big bunny sitting there, picking his teeth with the horns."

JACK THE MONK. Mingenew.

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Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Thursday 22 October 1936, page 10

### To Correspondents.

"Smokedrift," Busselton.—Will quote:—"I'm sorry I can't be there tonight when the roughriders bewail the decline of the horse and the smell of the motor bike. After my two digger reunions last night (10th L.H. and Digger Diarists) my wife is leading me into musical by-ways this evening. I hope this evening's function is as successful as that of last evening—and who could wish more?" . . . I was sorry you missed, especially as you were down for a speech. Perhaps that's what made you so willing to be led along to "The Mikado." However, it went just as well as the other, and Don Cronin and his Nor'-Westers p-p-put the m-m-motors well into the limbo of the unwanted.

A card pushed into my hand as the Mutual Helpers and Highwaymen's dinner concluded read as follows:—"Regards and thanks from East Kimberley—Don Cronin, Col. Campbell and Bob Knowles." Don was present with his coppers, and they told me they were going up north again. Highwaymen in general will wish them good riding and the best of luck along the by-ways outback.

"T.Y." Perth.—Yes, it appeared last week. I don't remember seeing you at the Dinner, but hope you were there. There was hardly time to send out the disk when I got your acceptance.

"Pindan," Perth.—Most interesting. All this reminiscence is resulting in some history being written by the only men who can write it—and you are one of them.

Pressure on my time of other important matters, such as the Virgilians' Party, has prevented me from keeping up to date with my answers to correspondents. Those whose items I have been unable to deal with are:—"Antucker," Kalgoorlie; "An Aussie," East Fremantle; "Marmion," Lake Carnody; "Poaffter O'Grady," Geraldton; "13th Ginger Beers," Higginsville; "Sapper Sigs," Walgoolan; "P.H.D.," Victoria Park; "Barb Wire," Manjimup; "Senlie," Molerin; "Longshanks," Greenmount; "The W.B.O.," Karridale; "Errol," Fremantle; "R.V.R.," Perth; "Jum Buck," Sandstone; "Phogarty," Nanson; "Fagan," West Perth; "Rara Avis," Jarrahdale; "Penrose," Kelmscott; "Silver Concha," Nannine; "Regit," Picton Junction; and "Gelignite," Tammin. More detailed comments will be made when each item is dealt with.

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N T RACE CLUB

NOTES ON THE FORTHCOMING

RACES AT DARWIN

Mr Cahman has three horses Mr Don Cronin three and Mr Bowman two. All are in work at present. It is understood that Mr E Ethridge has two horses at Humpty Doo Station as well as three others coming in. Mr Geo. Stevens is likely to bring down three, Fred McCaw, two -St Royal and another. Others expected are from Messrs Liddy Bros and, those good sports the Byrne boys and others.

The course will be in good order and plenty of improvements have been added since last meeting.

Everything points to the meeting being the most successful one yet

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Everything points to the meeting being the most successful one yet held.

All horseowners and breeders in the country should support and nominate for this meeting as the programme has mainly been formed to give the local sports a chance it greatly lies with their support whether horse racing and the horse industry in the district proves a success.

The committee are working hard and will have every convenience possible for their patrons.

National Library of Australia

Western Mail  
(Perth, WA: 1885 – 1954),  
Thursday 22 April 1937,  
page 10

## Canine Sagacity.

Dear "Non-Com."—In the October, 1896, issue was an item by "Sticko," You-anmi, dealing with the intelligence of a dog. It sounded rather tall, but is quite possible, and to give his account of the canine species my feeble support, I will tell you about a dog Don Cronin used to own.

Don, after a most disastrous buffalo-hunting trip in the Northern Territory, was making back over this way into the cattle country with a plant of eight horses and, of course, his dog. Every morning just before daylight, the dog would go out and muster the horses. On his arrival back at the camp he would bark eight if he had them all, six times if two were away and so on.

Don had an uneventful trip as far as Timber Creek. As there were several travellers camped there he sent his dog out earlier than usual. Don is a very modest chap and he didn't want the other travellers to think he was showing off with his dog. The horses were on camp well before daylight, and the dog after counting them gave eight barks and a little yelp. Don lay in his swag trying to make out what the little yelp was in aid of, and the dog becoming impatient waiting for Don to sing out "O.K., get the billy and put it on the fire," gave another eight barks and a little yelp. Don, thinking the dog must have mustered a stranger's horse, decided to get up and investigate. But the dog, Don assures his audience when telling the tale, had not made a mistake. The old baldy-faced pack mare had had a foal!

B. BAPTISTE, Wyndham.

Townsville Daily Bulletin  
(Qld : 1885 – 1954),  
Monday 24 January 1927,  
page 8

## OUT OF LUCK

Darwin January 22

Mr Don Cronin was badly mauled yesterday at the Adelaide River trucking yards while trucking bullocks for shipment to Manila by the cattle freighter Antonio. A bullock gored him and dragged him some distance on his horns.

Cronin was brought to Darwin Hospital by rail motor, maintaining on the journey the cheerful disposition which he demonstrated after the injury, though during the last few months he sustained injuries through a collision of his motor lorry with a tree near the ten mile. On that occasion he was lying for hours on the road before being picked up and his recent festive season was made glummer by several of his horses being struck by lightning at Parap and killed.

27), Tuesday 25 January

### TOWN TALK.

We are pleased to state that Mr E. J. Foster manager of the Northern Territory Times proprietary who is an inmate of the hospital is steadily improving and should if his present progress continues be about in the course of a week or two.

Mr Don Cronin one of the Burnside Station stockmen engaged in the trucking cattle at the Adelaide River Trucking yards for the Antonio shipment on Friday last had the misfortune to be gored by a hefty bullock about 2 in the afternoon. The injured

man was immediately placed on a motor quad and transported to Darwin reaching here shortly after 5 o'clock. On reaching the Darwin Hospital Doctor Leighton Jones was at attendance and an examination revealed that the flesh at the lower part of the back on the right side had a nasty wound about nine inches long but no other injuries other than a good bruising were sustained. The sufferer is now very comfortable and should be about in the course of a few weeks but it will be some time before he will be able to take that nice seat of his in the saddle with any degree of comfort.

://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/printArticleIpg/3384

### Among the Riders.

Dear "Non-Com."—Some time ago one of your correspondents stated that Lance Skuthorp had a livery stable in Fremantle during the war. Amos and Dick, his brothers, had the stable, and the Miss Skuthorp your correspondent met must have been myself. I used to visit the Base Hospital, and also did a lot of riding, but not buckjumpers. Lance's daughter is only about 20 now, and as far as I know has never been over here in the West. I am Mrs. Amos Skuthorp's adopted daughter, so I should know.

By the way, Mrs. A. Skuthorp was one of the pioneers of the North, having travelled overland from Queensland in the 'nineties. Then Mrs. T. Deacon, she and her husband came across per wagonette, and took up Waterloo station in

### NEW GOVERNMENT SWORN IN

Adelaide, Thursday.

The Hill Government resigned on Thursday and members of the Butler Government, with the exception of Mr Jenkins will be sworn in today. Mr. Jenkins will take the oath on Saturday. The recount which was asked for the Burra District, Legislature by Mr Hawke, was eight votes better, Liberal, for the election in a confirmation of the candidature of the original party in the original act 28, Labor 16, In-

Mr Jack Morck old Territorian and well known drover arrived in town by special train on Tuesday evening having brought some 130 odd bullocks from Knutwood Station. On account of the boggy state of the country it was found necessary to truck the beasts from Fountain Head trucking yards to the 4 mile yards.

CARLTON REACH, Gosnells.

Albany Advertiser (WA: 1897 – 1950,  
Monday 31 May 1948, page 3

## Lucky Escape

### Fish Carting Incident

Mr. Cyril Heberle had a remarkable escape from serious injury, if not death, when the rear tyre of the truck he was driving, blew out a few miles from Ongerup. Mr. Heberle was returning from Doubtful Island Bay with a load of fish and had Mr. Don Cronin in the truck with him as passenger. The accident occurred when the truck was approaching a curve at the bottom of a hill, the rear tyre blowing out caused the driver to lose control, although it was travelling at a normal speed, the vehicle took to the scrub, chopped off several large sapplings at the base with bulldozer efficiency, finally coming to rest with the front portion jammed between a large stump and a fallen tree. During its course through the tress, a large limb from a dead tree shattered the windscreen on the drivers side,

passed through the cabin and pierced the metal canopy at the rear. The limb apparently snapped off and then sprang out. It is not known whether the large cut on Mr. Heberle's head was caused by the limb as it went in or when it sprang clear. In any event had his head been an inch or two the wrong way a different story would be told. Mr. Heberle's head was caused by finish here though, as Dr. Jacobs of Narrogin, who had been down at Doubtful Island, arrived soon after the accident and was able to render first aid on the spot and then bring the injured man to the Katanning Hospital where several stitches were inserted.

## BUFFALO SHOOTING PARTY

### MEETS DISASTER

### LUGGER CAPSIZED: TWO

### MISSING

News of disaster to members, of a party of buffalo hunters reached Darwin on Thursday morning when Thomas Wood, owner of the lugger "Beryl" arrived and reported its loss during a whirlwind off the coast near Blue Mud Bay and the disappearance of Jacob Devries, better known as Jacob the Swede, and an aboriginal sailor. Devries was in charge of the lugger at the time and had three aboriginals with

him. -

Wood, says that he was himself in charge of his Cutter and had arranged with Devries to make anchorage at Smith's Point. At day-break on May 7 a heavy wind from the east sprang up and he lost sight of the "Beryl." At about 11 a.m. he put his cutter out to sea to find the "Beryl" and later saw her on a perfect tack coming towards him. A whirlwind struck his cutter and carried away the rigging. After effecting repairs it was found that the "Beryl" was missing. They searched in the vicinity and found one of the aboriginals from the "Beryl" in the water about three quarters of a mile from the shore. After a further search another aboriginal survivor was found on shore. There was no trace of wreckage or the other occupants of the lugger. The lugger was loaded with about nine tons of salt and provisions for the buffalo shooting expedition. The aboriginals, Dick and Paddy, say they left the lugger when it capsized and never saw Devries or the aboriginal Tommy again. Don Cronin was to meet the others at the coast and was proceeding overland.

Close

## **BUFFALO SHOOTING PARTY MEETS DISASTER**

### **LUGGER CAPSIZED: TWO MISSING**

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Don Cronin was to meet the others at the coast and was proceeding overland.

### That Dinner.

"The Western Mail" is giving a dinner to contributors to Highway and By-way (including The Dolly Pot) and Mutual Help on Thursday, October 8, at 6.30 p.m. at Stirling Institute, and members of these various "teams" are cordially invited to the function. On this page and The Dolly Pot there have been some most interesting articles and series of articles, and many of the pen-names of those responsible are well and favourably known to readers. I hope some of these contributors can be present.

Incidentally, Harry Farber and Don Cronin have been the subject of many of their yarns. If they see this I hope they will take it as an invitation to be present at the function, where I am sure all hands will give them a hearty welcome. Now, you Highwaymen and Dolly Pots, send me your acceptances as soon as possible. The following is the list to

9/8/36 :-

A.H.P., Leederville.  
"Longhanks," Greenmount.  
"Fitz," North Perth.  
N.E.H., Claremont.  
"Spook," Perth.  
"Salt spray," Claremont.  
"22446," Keysbrook.  
"First Divvy," Victoria Park.  
"2707," Dalwallinu.  
"Steel," Mundijong.  
"Windian," Marvel Loch.  
"Tripos," Yorkrakine.  
"Adam and Eve," Cottesloe.  
"H.M.T.," Moorine Rock.  
"Bush Brumby," Carmel.  
"Dig," Collie.  
"Just a Mug," Northam.  
"Ex-Gunner," Albany.  
"Anzac," Jolimont.  
"Anzaussie," Yorkrakine.  
"Trumpeter," Perth.  
"B.S.A., Midland Junction.  
"Stretch Bearar," Buckland Hill.  
"H.B.," Baceboro.  
"Popoorn," Bunjil.  
"Blus," Kalamunda.  
Cam Egan, Nedlands.  
"Eureka," Guildford.  
"Viator," South Perth.  
"Sinbad," Osborne Park.  
"Smokedrill," Busselton.  
"Roc," Kelmscott.  
"Whitby Bay," Moorine Rock.  
"Tenterbrake," Waiki.  
"Timothy Tugmutton," Pingrup.

### Nor-West Tales.

Dear "Non-Com,"—The Bo River was in flood and while waiting for it to become "crossable" I went wandering around and found a copy of "The Western Mail" dated October 22, 1936, left in a camp by "Galloping Paddy," "Al Capone," "Death Adder Jack," or some of the other ringers on Lissadell station. ("Stirrup Iron," Wubin, can see we have nick-names up here, too!)

In the issue was a photo of Don Cronin. Don used to be head stockman on Lissadell and many an amusing evening was spent by us other ringers, listening to Don's tall tales.

One night a Queenslander, the boss of the station, was telling some tall tales about the Banana and Sugar State. The Burdekin ducks were supposed to grow to an enormous size on the Burdekin River and the fish grew so big that anything under 40 pounds was thrown back into the water. The best bait to use when catching these big fish was a small strip of Turkey red. The old chap stressed the point that if too much Turkey red was used as bait the fisherman stood a good chance of catching crabs or just anything at all. His tales were all tall, but rather feeble so we waited for Don to start and after a preliminary splutter he got going. (Put in your own stutters.)

"You chaps from Queensland amuse me with your tales of good horses, fat bullocks, big fish and other things. Down in the Argyle Lagoon there are bigger fish than ever came out of Queensland.

When the big old baramundi swim up the lagoon they make a tidal wave. They are so cunning through being fished for so often that the only bait that is at all successful is prawns. I remember last time I was there after a lot of trouble I got a prawn on the line and got it into the water. It wasn't long before I hooked a fish and after pulling it out of the water with a broncho horse I saw a most peculiar thing."

Don looked at the Queenslander as much as to say "How's that."

"I don't see anything unusual in that," the Queenslander said, "even if the fish had to be pulled out of the water by a horse. Now over in Queensland . . ."

"Hold your horses," Don interrupted. "The peculiar thing I was going to tell you about that fish was that it wasn't on the hook at all. The flamin' prawn had caught the ruddy fish by the bleedin' throat and was landin' him for us!"

B. BAPTISTE,  
Wyndham.

Pavilion Displays were the best for years at the

## KATANNING SHOW

**T**HE 55th annual show of the Katanning Agricultural and Pastoral Society was held on October 27, under ideal weather conditions. The attendance surpassed that of any of the society's previous shows during the war period and was estimated at over 4,000. There were no live-stock exhibits other than horses in action, but entries in the pavilion sections and in the special Arnold E. Piesse wool room, were the best for a number of years. Dog trials were held during the morning.

In the afternoon there were demonstrations by the Katanning Volunteer Fire Brigade and the local St John Ambulance, also a pets' parade, in which pets of every description were led or carried round the ring by their youthful owners.

Sporting events comprised three trotting races and three cycle events.

The pavilion displays were of an exceptionally high standard, the flowers in particular calling forth unstinted praise from the judge (Mr Charles Rhodes). Championships in this section were won by Mrs E. T. Keay, for specimen rose (Mabel Morse) and by Mrs C. E. Courtis for specimen gladiolus (Maunga), while the E. N. Walker cup for most points gained in the section was awarded to Mrs R. L. Hoglin.

The wool display completely filled

The wool display completely filled the benches in the wool room, the famous "blue wools" of the Great Southern showing to great advantage. Winners of championships in this section were Ross Anderson and Co, for strong and medium wool,

respectively, and P. H. Crossley, for fine wool. The Crossley Cup for best three fleeces in the farmers' section was awarded to L. Beeck, with C. R. Garstone runner-up. In addition to the sheep-dog trials in the morning, the championship open event was staged in the afternoon. The winner was J. J. Currie's Colonist. This dog also secured the C. B. Ball cup.

This show in common with those held throughout the war period, was run for patriotic purposes.

Introduced by the president of the society (Mr C. R. Garstone), the Premier (Mr F. J. S. Wise) declared the show open. With him were: The Leader of the Opposition (Mr A. F. Watts, M.L.A.) and Messrs H. L. Roche and A. L. Loton, M's.L.C.

The principal awards were as follows:

### MERINO WOOL.

Ram's fleece, strong: Ross Anderson and Co. 1 and 2. Ram's fleece, medium: P. H. Crossley, 1; Foster, 2. Ram's fleece, fine: P. H. Crossley, 1; Cheetham Bros, 2. Fleece, medium wool: Ross Anderson and Co. 1; Les Beeck, 2. Fleece, strong wool: J. Downer, 1; Ross Anderson and Co. 2. Lambs' wool, strong: Ross Anderson and Co. 1 and 2. Lambs' wool, medium/fine: L. Beeck, 1.

Farmers' Classes.—Fleece, fine wool: Cheetham Bros, 1; C. R. Garstone, 2. Fleece, medium wool: Cheetham Bros, 1; L. Beeck, 2. Fleece, strong wool: Foster, 1; L. Beeck, 2. Crossley Cup for three fleeces medium wool: L. Beeck, 1; C. R. Garstone, 2. Champion fleece, strong wool: Ross Anderson and Co. Medium

#### RING EVENTS.

Sheep Dog Trials.—Maiden: W. C. Ball's Flossie, 1; H. C. Childe's Neil, 2. Farmers' class: N. Griffiths's Digger, 1; M. Conning's Dodger, 2. Open: J. J. Currie's Colonist, 1; W. C. Ball's Lena, 2; H. C. Childe's Kit, 3. Championship event, open and C. B. Ball's trophy: J. J. Currie's Colonist, 1; W. C. Ball's Lena, 2.

Horse Events.—Pony, 12 hands and under, ridden by boy or girl, 15yr or under: Helen Atkinson, 1; Noel Ball, 2. Pony, 14.2 and under, ridden by boy or girl, 15yr or under: Susan Walker, 1; Neta Butcher, 2. Best schoolgirl rider: E. Ladyman, 1; Neta Butcher, 2. Best schoolboy rider: Tim Catling, 1; H. Hosking, 2. Flag race, 15yr and under: Sheila Edgar, 1; B. Potts, 2. Lady's hack: S. Edgar, 1; Yvonne Watts, 2. Man's hack, 11st and over: Don Cronin, 1; T. Atkinson, 2. Flag race, open: E. Ladyman, 1; Perth Riding School, 2. Novelty event on horseback: B. Potts, 1; W. Cockram, 2. Pair hacks: Don Cronin and Wendy Cockram, 1; V. Nicholas and Yvonne Watts, 2. Walk, trot and gallop: N. Ball, 1; H. Hosking, 2.

Cycle Races.—Half-mile handicap: W. King, 1; C. Pearce, 2; G. Hanna, 3. 1½ miles handicap: G. Hanna, 1; P. Creswell, 2; C. Pearce, 3. Mile handicap: W. King, 1; B. Boyer, 2; C. Pearce, 3.

Trotting Races.—Three-year-old handicap, 9 furlongs: K. B. Slater's Genalex, 1; C. J. Antonio's Lee Tony, 2. Show Handicap, 1½ miles, 2.32 and better: K. Quartermaine's Von Lou, 1; C. J. Antonio's Bon Gold, 2. Encourage Stakes, 1½ miles, for horses 2.40: E. Clark's Miss Eastern, 1; Ben Bell's Wilful, 2.

The Malabar from Singapore arrived in port shortly after midday on Wednesday and work was started on the wharf at 2 p.m. All cargo was discharged and that offering stowed away for the southern destination, and the vessel got away at 9 p.m. for Melbourne, via ports, the same evening. A very creditable performance on the part of the waterside workers.

Messrs. Don Cronin and Don McMillan returned from Melville Island in a canoe on Wednesday last, the long trip of forty odd miles being safely navigated by a couple of natives, who regularly undertake the journey at this time of the year.

Owing to the uncertainty of getting shipments on board the Marella for Darwin through the recent industrial dispute, Messrs. Jolly and Co., local agents for the Ford Co., have arranged for a couple of the trucks of that Company to arrive by the Koolinda from Freemantle, due here on or about the 21st inst. Both trucks are intended for local timber getters.

The Victorian State elections are being held to-morrow throughout that State.

Amongst the local residents that are returning by the mail steamer Marella from Melbourne, via ports, are Mrs. C. Ormond and her family, Mr. C. W. D. Conacher, Mr. Harold Fynn, and Mr. Fred French, who brings with him two more tradesmen for the local contracting firm of H. Snell and Co.

## The Empty Saddles

Dear "Non-Com.,"—  
There's been old "Pater" rhyming in  
the "Highway" of great fame,  
Of two old champion horsemen who  
were masters of the game.  
He mentions old Alf Roberts, whose  
years must pass three score,  
And good old Harry Farber—we'll see  
his best no more.  
There's quite a lot of others who have  
passed us in review,  
Such as Wilson, Cole and Lucas and  
old Don Cronin, too;  
And "One-seven-two," of Meeka, is  
worthy of his place,  
Whilst Alec Hughes, the negro, will  
bring us no disgrace.  
Then old Jim Gooch, another, was a  
horseman of the best,  
And Teddie Graham also, a champion  
he, "gone west."

But —!  
These horsemen were the champions of  
a day that's nearly o'er,  
They are hanging up their saddles,  
They will ride the colts no more.  
They WERE the champion horsemen  
of a day that's passed us by;  
What of the younger riders, whose day  
is surely nigh?  
What of these younger riders who must  
follow in their wake,  
And keep the horses bucking for the  
old game's royal sake?  
Will they be taking down the gear when  
these grand old men are done,  
And, following in their footsteps, hold  
the place these men have won?  
Will we hear the girth-straps straining,  
while these young men take their  
place;  
When an outlaw "hits the ceiling" as  
he leaves the "crushing" race?  
When we hear the stockwhips rattle  
will their cries come drifting back,  
As they wheel the rushing bullocks on  
the cattle camps outback?  
Will this band of younger riders play  
the game these men have played,  
And carry on the prestige of the name  
these men have made?  
Or are we fated in the future when  
these fine old men pass by  
To see Westralia's "horsemen" slowly  
fade away and die?  
I think we'll kind of miss them when  
they leave us by the way,  
You will not find their betters in the  
breaking yards today.  
SHORTORN, Meekatharra.  
P.S.—"Pater" says their days are num-  
bered on the "Highway" of "The  
Mail."  
But perhaps they're only resting while  
his "greasies" hit the trail.  
When "Pater's" "guns" go "hearing,"  
they may meet them coming back, ...om  
slowly swinging in the Byways to the track."  
With apologies where needed to your-  
self. "Pater" and others —"

Tuesday 13 December 1927, page 2

and 17th December.

Mr. Don Cronin, who appears to have more than his share of ill luck, had another mishap on Friday evening last. While working for Mr. F. E. Holmes at Humpty Doo cattle station, he had the misfortune to inflict a severe cut upon his foot with an axe. He was brought into the hospital at Darwin, and six stitches were put into the wound.

detachment of Australian Air Force seaplanes. (Without going into the merits or demerits of the defunct Elcho Island Naphtha-Petroleum proposition, some effort should be made from Darwin per medium of the Minister for Home and Territories to endeavor to get an expert from the party to examine the strata of the alleged oil-bearing areas at Elcho and Howard Islands, Cape Wilberforce, Victoria River, and elsewhere. One oil discovery would be an immense factor towards hastening the development and increased settlement of the Northern Territory.

The cattle freighter "Antonia" which has been chartered by the Northern Agency Limited, is due to arrive at Darwin to-morrow (Wednesday) to load cattle for Manila.

## ROUND ABOUT

The Acting Editor has been informed that he was largely in error in his reference to Cr. E. V. V. Brown's remarks about two dogs which had become a nuisance by their continual howling. The reference was made at the recent meeting of the Darwin Town Council. Cr. Brown did not (except by gesture) indicate the habitat of either canine, and the Mayor did not say it was a matter for the police—it was referred to the Town Clerk.

Lovers of "the sport of kings" are reminded that the two days picnic meeting of the Brooks Creek Picnic Race Club takes place on Friday and Saturday next, the 16th

A small ice-making plant is to be added to O'Shea's Railway Hotel, Katherine, and should prove a great boon to patrons of the hotel bar and dining room especially during the hot weather at present being experienced.

## TOWN TALK

Friday 25 March 1927, page 9

The Bathurst Island Mission lugger got away, according to schedule, on Tuesday evening. In addition to a number of natives of the Island returning to their homes the vessel conveyed the Reverend Father McGrath, who will assist Reverend Father Gsell in conducting the Mission. Don Cronin and Don McMillan were also passengers on behalf of the Northern Agency, and will tranship for the adjoining Melville Island in connection with a proposed buffalo shooting season on behalf of the company, which has a lease of Melville Island.

It is reported that last week one of the cattle men on a cattle train from the railhead was left behind at a wayside station by the Guard who alleged that the cattleman was not doing his duty. We understand that more is likely to be heard of the matter in the near future.

Word comes from Tipperary station, the property of Mr W.J. Byrnes J.P., that a couple of likely looking colts bred on the station are in the home paddock and together with that good performer Batchelor, may pay a visit to Darwin towards the end of the year to compete in the annual races of the North Australian Racing Club.

weeks train.

In last issue we referred to the return of home of Mr Michael Fleming. Mr Fleming is owner of Douglas Station, some twenty odd miles from Burnside where some of the best bullocks in the north are bred and fattened. Railway construction workers are loud in their praise of the quality of the beef supplied from this station.

Father Doyle who left Sydney for Darwin in company with Father McGrath was, after departure, instructed to disembark at Thursday Island where he is now located relieving an absent priest. It will be some months before the Darwin vacancy is filled.

In the states of South Australia and West Australia where labor is in power, elections are being very keenly and cleanly fought by the respective parties each of which are confident of winning.

The Darwin Woodworking Company, which secured the contract for lining the underside of the extensive Hospital verandahs with fibro cement sheeting, has made a start on the work. This should prove a great boon to patients who spend much of their time on the verandahs.

Thursday 30 April 1936, page 7

### Champion Horsemen.

#### A Few From Kojonup.

Dear "Non-Com."—Donald Cronin, a relative of mine, has been mentioned in the Champion Horseman series. He is one of the West's best riders. When I was a kid Don, Cronin and Fred Norrish (an uncle of mine) were both selected to go to England in a rough-riders' outfit to ride against the Americans. Fred could not get permission on account of his age, so Don turned the trip down too.

Fred Norrish was one of the best all-round horsemen that ever threw a leg over a horse, and so was his brother Joe. In fact, horsemanship runs in the Norrish blood.

I saw one of Australia's champion roughriders in the remount depot in Egypt. His name was Dempsey and he hailed from either Queensland or New South Wales. He **COULD** ride!

3306, Kojonup.

#### How About the Old-timers?

Dear "Non-Com."—There have been lots of comments on riders and who was and is the best. As they never met and rode it out, it's hard to say who would have been the best in a saddle. There would be only one in it if it came to bare-back riding. It's the same with race-horses and boxers who never met.

But what about the old-time riders, 50 or 60 years ago. There were no saddles like those used nowadays. They were not much b'-'er than boys' saddles, with little short flaps and thick padding right down to the edge. But they must have ridden and broken in their horses, and good ones, too, before Lucas, Graham and Faber had started to ride.

No doubt some of the old-timers can tell us about them.

GREENHIDE, Leonora.

Northern Territory Times and Gazette (Darwin, NT: 1873 – 1927) Tuesday 15 March 1927, page 1

Mr. Don Cronin the well known bush worker, is in town awaiting transport to Melville Island where he goes to weigh up the chances of putting together a plant on behalf of the Northern Agency for a buffalo shooting season on the Island. Should he be successful it will be the first lot of hides from the Island for many years.

Mr Harry Hardy of Burrundie is in town over the week end to met his brotner Fred Hardy, of Adelaide River, who returned this morning on the Malabar from a holiday trip south.

The Playford Arms Hotel at Pine Creek is undergoing extensive alterations and improvements, and under the capable brush hawd of Mr Clarrie Wilkinson, of buffalo shooting fame, the hotel is wearing a gay and enticing appearance.

Mr Ted Fogarty, who underwent an operation at the Darwin hospital on Tuesday last under Dr H Leighton Jones is doing exceptionally well and should soon be able to resume his job as manager of Newey Station.

# TOWN TALK.

Mr L M B amby, butcher, of Pine Creek, announces that he will raise the price of beef by a penny per pound.

The new tin field out south from

Mr S Armstrong of the Federation Hotel, Brock's Creek, was unfortunate enough to have a bone of the left leg broken below the knee through a kick from a horse on Friday morning last. As the train was just about

Dear "Non-Com."—If the letters published on the above subject are to be taken as a criterion, then Harry Farber and Frank Lucas would still be in the saddle, and all other competitors would have "packed their ports" long ago. Good and all as Farber and Lucas were, riders like Don Cronin, Malcolm and Jimmy Gooch and one or two others would have had admirers twenty years ago. Harry Farber would have been an odds on shot without saddle, but with the gear on, I'd be inclined to sing out evens the field, and the book would show a profit.

The riders mentioned I knew well, and although I don't think there are nearly as many really capable horsemen as there were twenty years ago, still, there are one or two of the young 'uns in the game today who are fit to sit with the mighty. Bill Rose, of "Mia-Mia," handles a horse as well as anyone I've seen, and Dudley Farrar, of "Landor," can stay as long in the saddle as the old-timers did.

But I've only met one man in my twenty and odd years in the North who would sooner ride a buck than have his breakfast. This chap came from South Australia about 1918 and only stayed in the West twelve months. We were on a De Grey River station together. It was a good season and the horses were in great heart. Everything on the place he sampled, but never looked like losing his seat. We got twenty or so good sorts from Balfour Downs, and he made these do their stuff, too. After he had got it

SPORT ROYAL, Carnarvon.

West Arthur Jones, of the Remounts. Water Dear "Non-Com."—"Rodeo (Wagin) wards asks how Jim Jones, the present Ausler, were where all the rough 'uns were marked, according to Lachlan Noble!

He was riding a roan mare one morning. She was getting herself into all

Western Mail (Perth, WA:1885 – 1954), Thursday 2 July 1936, page 7

sorts of knots, and getting up higher than a Chief Justice. "Lockie" was enjoying himself and sang out to me to get his stockwhip and open the gates. Out she went, gathered pace quickly, and then did her best, but old Lock let her have her head and gave an exhibition of the "Sydney Flash" and other fancy strokes with the stock whip. He used to let them have their head, and was a balance rider pure and simple, and a good one!

Western Mail (Perth, WA: 1885 – 1954), Thursday 11 June 1936, page 7

**Katanning and Kojonup.**

Dear "Non-Com."—I wonder if any of the contributors to the new instalment of "Fags" in Palestine.

Dear "Non-Com."—Some time ago Jack Ryder mentioned Dinny Cull as one of his champion horsemen, and stated that there should be somewhere in the State snaps taken of a horse trained by Dinny sitting at table with General Royston.

I was looking at one of these snaps about three years ago, but when I tried to find it a month ago, it could not be located.

A week or so ago "172," Meekatharra, mentioned a Katanning lad winning a lance competition in Palestine. Well, I suppose he means Ben Solly, as he and Evie were both C. and C. men till Evie collected in the second Gaza stunt. It was after the fall of Jerusalem. The Aussie Mounted Division were back at Deir-el-Belah, and at divisional sports there, if memory serves me right, Ben won the tent pegging competition, but not with a lance. He used his bayonet as a not last.

At Kojonup many years ago a number of unbroken horses were in a yard, and Bert Quartermaine, who was sitting on

Northern Times  
(Carnarvon, WA:  
1905 – 1952),  
Friday 27 October  
1939, page 3

**HERE AND THERE**

After the most successful race meeting held in Onslow for many years, we regret to learn of the visit of two bushrangers ----- who are now gone over the sandhills with all the horses they could muster. These well-equipped wranglers are now heading from our town to Kimberley ----- we think: but 'calling all stations', we cannot track them down. Look out all along the border



## WESTRALIANA FAUNA

Pioneer Farming had  
its share

# FUN AND GAMES

**M**EMORIES of Coompatine and farming in the latter half of the last century included not only hard work under primitive conditions, but kangaroo hunts and parlour games, according to Job Haddleton.

There were sports at Woodanilling on Boxing Day, 1898, and this was the first time I had the opportunity to try myself at running. I had a very successful day, winning a maiden race and the Sheffield. I won several Sheffields in later years. In the same year a football club was started at Woodanilling, and in 1900 the Murracoonda Football Team was formed, making three clubs, Katanning, Woodanilling and Murracoonda. These were the days that you had to play the ball and leave the man alone under the old Victorian rules.

Our nearest neighbours were the Cronins (eight miles), Quartermains (seven), and W. Andrews (six). The Cronins

Andrews (six). The Cronins were a family of ten and the Haddletons ten also. We used to take turn about going visits on Sunday. The Sunday morning search for our saddle-horses might entail a walk of eight or ten miles. After dinner we would saddle up two or three of them, put one in the spring cart and go off to spend the afternoon and evening.

The afternoon might be spent playing hockey or rounders; after tea, if it was moonlight, we would be out again playing games. If the evening was dark or wet we would have a singsong or play games such as hunt the slipper, find the button or old Mother Shipton. We might get home about 10 p.m., then one would have cows to milk pigs to feed and horses

milk, pigs to feed, and horses to stable. The ponies would be turned out in the bush as we had no horse paddock. They had to find their own living until next time we wanted them.

My brothers, William and Don, Frank, Harry, Edwin and Will Cronin and I would go out to the sandplains on Saturday night with five or six dogs and in the morning have a kangaroo hunt. Occasionally there would be a nasty spill when after an old boomer. When he was blown out we would put the horse at him. Sometimes the horse tripped over the roo's tail, then horse, roo and rider would all be in a heap on the ground.

A roo hunt was one of our best sports. Once my brother Tom and Eddie Cronin had two ponies training for the Katanning races. Tom and Eddie came to a hunt to give their horses a run. They said they would not gallop them but follow and watch the sport. We had not gone far when five or six roos jumped up. The temptation was too great for Tom and Eddie, they came past us like the wind. It was

nice open sandplain country. The roos split in all directions. Tom took one, Eddie another. Tom's roo got off to the right, Eddie's to the left, and pre-

Eddie's to the left, and presently they both took a turn in to meet each other. They were both right on the tail of their roos each watching his prey. The roos crossed, just missing each other. But the two horses met; Tom's horse knocked his shoulder out and Eddie's horse dislocated its stifle joint. Eddie was unconscious for a couple of hours and Tom had a bad gravel rash. The two horses never raced again.

In 1902, Tom, aged 23 years, and I decided to take a trip around the North-West coast to have a look at the country and do a bit of shearing to pay our way. When Don Cronin heard of our plan he said he would go too. We took a bike each with us from Perth and booked our passage to Cossack on the Bullara. We stayed in Roebourne three days and then started on the bikes for a shearing shed 100 miles up the Fortescue River.

We were two days doing the 100 miles and arrived at Balmoral station on June 5. Shearing was not to start for a fortnight, but the boss offered us £1 each head to break in horses. The agreement was to ride them for a couple of days until they were well mouthed and had given up bucking, and then pass them on to the darkies for mustering sheep. At the end

mustering sheep. At the end of two weeks we had broken in 20. We sold our bikes and bought saddle-horses, and after shearing was finished we started off for Towera station owned by Henry Smithson, 140 miles from Balmoral station, taking four days to do the trip

At Towera shearing had just commenced with a team of ten aborigines shearing, two gins picking up the wool, the boss woolclassing, one white man and two darkies woolpressing. The boss put two of the natives off and gave Don and me their stands. Our pay was £1 per 100 sheep and food. It was all blade-shearing. Pay for the abos was their food and a stick of dark Conqueror tobacco each week. These tobacco sticks were about six inches long and about as thick as a finger. The boss would cut the stick into six 1-inch plugs and they would be given one of the plugs each night, missing Sunday. Our tallies with the blades were 100 a day, the darkies doing 40 to 50 a day. The boss said that we were the first two white shearers he had in his shed. Shearing hitherto had all

been done by the station niggers.

From Towera we took the road to Carnarvon, and reached there on September 4. We had travelled 500 miles by road, broken in 20 horses, and shorn 6,000 sheep. We sold our horses in Carnarvon and helped to load 5,000 sheep on to the stock boat Cloncurry. The sheep had been bought by Holmes and Co., Fremantle butchers, and we were given a free passage to Fremantle to assist with them. We returned to Coomatinine and started our own shearing on October 1.

# The "MUTUAL HELP" Dinner

Some High-lights of "Western Mail Week"

## THE COOK'S INTENTIONS.

Soup.—"Twenty-eight" Broth.  
Fish.—Gilgies, Goanna Tails.  
Entrees.—Subterranean Mutton, Boiled Bandicoot.  
Poultry.—Squeaker, Curried Crow, Minced Mopoke,

Poultry.—Squeaker, Curried Crow, Minced Mopoke, Emu Steak.  
Joints.—Tinned Dog, Barney's Bull, S'rlain of Billy-goat. (No pork as the pig recovered.)  
Vegetables.—Cape-weed, Mexican Spinach, Paddy-melon, Star Thistle, Stinkwort.  
Sweets.—Quandong Pie, Damper, Brownie.  
Savoury.—Bardies on Toast.  
Drinks.—Dam Water, Goats' Milk.

Somewhere about this stage of the proceedings I had the pleasure of introducing Don Cranin, whose name has figured so prominently on the Highway and By-way since the "Champion Horsemen" first straddled the pigskin. Don's weather-beaten features are known amongst the dwellers in the real out-back from the Kimberleys to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and he got a great ovation. A pioneer from a family of pioneers he has been riding "rough 'uns" for many years and judging by the lean, sinewy length of him will be capable of doing it for many more years to come.

I am unable to say with any certainty whether Don's voice is a bass-baritone, a coloratura soprano, or something "betwixt and between," but there is plenty of it and he kept it "hitting on all six" in the community choruses. Happy Days ! to you Don, and

plenty of it and he kept it "hitting on all six" in the community choruses. Happy Days ! to you Don, and your cobbors at the "East Kimberley Table." Here's hoping that you will carry some pleasant memories of "The Western Mail" back to the "Never-Never" and that we will see you all again.

In proposing the toast of contributors to the Western Mail, "Scrutator," in one of the humorous after-dinner speeches for which he is famous, painted a vivid word picture of the trials of the hack journalist, as opposed to the casual contributor who can write "when the spirit moves" instead of having to wield the pen all day and every day whether the spirit moves or not.

As he naively pointed out, several aristocrats of the literary world had purchased islands so as to be assured of the solitude so necessary to the growth of their brain-children, whereas most of our country contributors could have solitude for the asking—for even if the aforementioned solitude does belong to the bankers, those gentlemen are careful not to mar it by living amongst it.

The toast was responded to by "2707," of Dalwallinu, who in a witty speech gave us what the "fillums" term "the low-down" on Antony's first remark to Cleopatra.

Many social functions are marred by an overabundance of speeches, which tend to dim the sparkle of the proceedings, but I am sure that all those who were present on Thursday will agree with me when I say that the speeches were the high-lights of a series of scintillations.

### Don Cronin.

Dear "Non-Com."--I am enclosing a photo of Don Cronin, my uncle, who is known to you as a rough rider, "the chap who stutters a bit," and a "teller of tall yarns." But, "Non-Com," he has another side to those of us who know him well. He is good-natured to a fault, the sort of man who, if he only had half a loaf of bread, would willingly give it to the other chap and tighten up his belt another hole. Many a kindly action he did for us, my sisters, brothers and myself when we lost our mother when we were very young. Don was always the hero of all his



named. Everybody, in the district will wish success to Edwards and Cronin.

Kalgoorlie Western  
Argus (WA),  
14 July 1914

### Northern Standard 21-12-1926

Mr. Don Cronin, who has been having a "run of outs\*" since he came to the Territory, met tuither misfortune early on, Saturday morn- ing last, his two ' horses, which were, tethered to trees a few feet apart, at the- rear of the 2^ mile work-shops were struck dead by . lightning..i. Otic of the horses \,as a galloper, named "Hailstone" and had-, we understand, raced with success at - small meetings ' in west- ern Queensland

Geraldton Guardian and Express (WA), Tuesday 27 July 1937

**Missing Stockman Found.**—According to reports received recently by the Geraldton police persistent inquiries by relatives had failed to elicit any information regarding the whereabouts of a stockman named Thomas Henry Buscombe, who had not been heard of since he was employed at Byro Station, in the Mullewa district, early last year. Buscombe wrote to a relative on April 17th, 1936, announcing his intention of leaving the station to go kangaroo shooting further north. According to inquiries afterwards made by the police he was accompanied by an old man named Don Cronin, well known in the Mullewa district, but efforts to locate the latter also proved unsuccessful until Saturday last, when a telegram was received from Peak Hill advising that Cronin was at present employed at Millgun Station, fifty miles west of Peak Hill. No reference was made then to the whereabouts of Buscombe, but a broadcast description of the missing man per medium of "The Daily News" evening news service brought about the desired results. The description was picked up on a receiving set at the far distant Ashburton

st, and

on Saturday the chief of the Criminal Investigation Branch (Inspector J. Doyle) received a message from the manager of the station (Mr. Knowles), intimating that Buscombe, who had been working there on July 5th last, was now at Milly Springs, Three Creek.

## Epilogue

Don left this life in November 1955.

He is interred at the Katanning Cemetery; preceded there by 13 other Cronins.

Leaving the cemetery, in the vicinity of the Piesse graves; FH Piesse being the commercial founder of Katanning, a local man, quick with a quip said the following;

'Well, that's goodbye to Don' – he continued –  
'Wwwwwwwwww we wwwwwwwill nnnnnnnever  
seeeeeee hhhhhhhhhhis llllllike again.'

Another man then said, 'Irreverent, but entirely appropriate.'

**The joint collators of this brief history are**

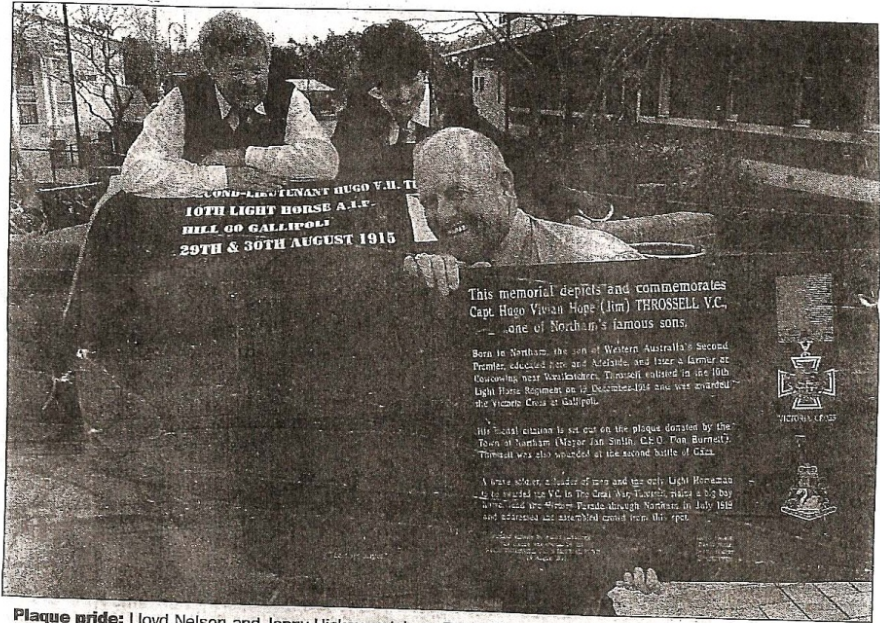


Jim West



Lloyd Nelson

**Last Word – About the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse's only VC winner.**



**Plaque pride:** Lloyd Nelson and Jenny Hickey watch as David Sims holds the plaque which will form part of the memorial to Hugo Throssell, who won a Victoria Cross on the Gallipoli peninsula in 1915. PICTURE: TONY ASHBY.

# Town honours war hero 80 years on

By George Boylen

**NORTHAM** will pay homage today to one of its bravest sons, Hugo Vivian Hope Throssell, a controversial war hero.

A Victoria Cross winner for bravery on the Gallipoli peninsula in 1915, he shocked a big gathering at a victory parade in Northam in 1919 when he talked of his disenchantment with war profiteers and said he was a socialist.

A memorial depicting the 10th Light Horse Regiment soldier will be unveiled today outside the Tattersalls Hotel on a spot where he made his controversial speech.

Hugo "Jim" Throssell was a son of WA's second premier, George Throssell.

He and his brother grew up in Northam at the family mansion, Fermoy, and enlisted when war broke out in 1914.

A citation hanging on a wall at the Army Museum in Fremantle describes his conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during operations on Kajakij Aghala (Hill 60) on August 29-30, 1915.

"Although seriously wounded in several places during the counter-attack, he refused to leave his post or to obtain medical assistance till all danger had passed, when he had his wounds dressed and returned to the firing line until ordered out of action by the medical officer.

"By his personal courage and example he kept up the spirits of

his party and was largely instrumental in saving the situation at a critical period."

While recovering from his wounds on a trip to England, he met actress Katharine Susannah Prichard, a founding member of the Australian Communist Party. She became his wife.

He lived with Prichard at Greenmount but in 1933, depressed, plagued by money problems and with his wife visiting Russia, the war hero shot himself dead with a service revolver. He was 48.

His son, Ric Throssell, was named by Soviet defector Vladimir Petrov as a Soviet agent in 1954. He committed suicide in Canberra in April.



VICTORIA CROSS



10th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT

Extract from John Hamilton's ANZAC Book,  
'The Price of Valour',  
Published by Pam McMillen

In 1998, a group of Northam citizens, led by Lloyd Nelson, decided it was time to give Hugo a memorial. Their vision was to have a life-size statue of the hero overlooking the main thoroughfare through the town. But they ran into opposition. As Nelson said, 'Memories are very long in country towns. They never forget. If you took a vote, half would be for him and half against.'

Eventually, on the 28 August 1999, the governor of Western Australia, Michael Jeffery, officially unveiled the Hugo Throssell VC Memorial.

He said that, 'it is probable that rejecting the values of his peer group was the reason no memorial existed [before] for Throssell'.