

## HENDERSON FAMILY



The Henderson Brothers  
Published in *Australia's Fighting Sons of the Empire*

### Family History

George Henderson was born in Scotland around 1816. He arrived in Western Australia in August 1852 as a convict aboard the *William Jardine*. George was thirty-six, and he had left a wife and five children behind in the United Kingdom.

Three years later, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1855, George married Catherine Hines at the Wesleyan Chapel in Perth. The couple had nine children together: Mary Ann, Elizabeth, Patrick George, Amelia, Thomas, Henry James, John, Edward and May. Four of the nine children had links to York.

Patrick George Henderson married Eliza Scotcher, from York, in 1889. The couple moved around the State before settling in York in 1891. Patrick purchased 9 Clifford Street from Charles Edwards on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1891 and set about establishing a brick works. The site was perfect for a brick yard because it backed onto the Avon River and had plenty of naturally occurring clay.

The family lived at the front of the plot in a cottage which had already been named "Cotmore." The cottage still stands today on Clifford Street. Three of Patrick and Eliza's five children were born in York.



Patrick, Eliza and Daughter Ella in front of 'Cotmore' cottage in 1893

Courtesy York Residency Museum P1998.82

When gold fever hit Western Australia in the 1890s, Patrick saw a fortune in his future and went prospecting, leaving his wife and children in York.

He moved his family to Meckering in the early 1900s, because the rail line to Coolgardie ran through the town and made it easier for him to commute between the family home and his mine at Woolgar (later named Yunndaga) in the Goldfields.

Prospecting was not as profitable as Patrick had hoped, and he was declared bankrupt in 1906. His sons, however, continued to mine in the area until the 1950s.



# HENDERSON

## Lionel Henry

Service No: 4302

## Family History

Lionel Henry Henderson was grandson of George Henderson. His father was Henry James Henderson.

It is unknown exactly when Henry James arrived in York. His brother in law, Edward George Ingram, the publican of the York Hotel, leased the brickyards belonging to Thorn, Bower and Stewart in June 1890, and Henry, along with three of his brothers, all worked there over the years.

Henry married Sarah Jane Coles at York in 1892, and the couple had five children: Lionel Henry (b.1895) Mabel Jane (b.1893) Leonard Edward (b.1897) Ethel Ann (b.1899) and Alexander (b.1906). All were born in the York area.

From 1898 to 1904, Henry was listed in the York Post Office Directory as a brick maker, and he remained in this occupation for most of his life with businesses in York and Narrogin at various times.

In February 1898, Patrick Henderson sold "Cotmore" to Robert John Wheeler and, in 1904, Henry James Henderson, with the help of his brother John, purchased the property back from Wheeler. In 1911, the Title was transferred solely into Henry's name, and he raised a mortgage on the property in 1912. "Cotmore" was sold to Charlie Lee Ying in 1914.

Henry's wife, Sarah, died on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1912, after a long illness, over three years, according to a newspaper report.

The following year, Henry sustained a serious compound fracture of his right arm, between the elbow and forearm, when the horse drawing his vehicle bolted on Parkers Bridge and the vehicle overturned.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1915, Henry completed an enlistment application to join the A.I.F. He stated his age was forty-three and ten months and listed his daughter as Next of Kin. He also noted that he had spent time with the Guildford Volunteers. Unfortunately, a medical examination at the end of August found he had a hernia, and he was found unfit for service.

Between 1922 and 1936, Henry lived in Balcatta and worked as a labourer.

Henry James Henderson died in 1938. His death was registered in the name of James H. Henderson.

## Life Story

Lionel Henry Henderson was born at Mackies Bridge, near York, in 1895. His father, Henry James, was the son of George Henderson, and Lionel was a cousin of Eric, Francis and Cyril Henderson. Little is known of Lionel's life before his enlistment. He grew up in York and, as his father was a Roman Catholic, it is possible that he attended York Convent school.

Lionel joined the Royal Australian Navy on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1914 and commenced work as a stoker.

He served aboard several ships: *Cerebus*, *Encounter*, *Penguin*, *Brisbane*, *Sydney 2* and *Australia* for periods of time varying from ten days on the *Australia* to three years aboard HMAS *Brisbane* (31<sup>st</sup> October 1916 to the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1919).

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1916, while serving on the *Encounter*, Lionel deserted ship in Bunbury, possibly to visit his father who was living in Narrogin at the time. He was recovered on the 28<sup>th</sup> June and, sentenced to sixty days' time forfeiture as punishment.

Shortly after this, Lionel transferred to HMAS *Brisbane*. On the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1916, *Brisbane* departed Sydney for Malta, in the Mediterranean, before being deployed to the Indian Ocean to assist in the hunt for the German commerce raiders *Wolf* and *Seeadler*.

In June 1917, the ship returned to Australian waters and patrolled the Western Australian coast, until it was sent to the western Pacific in October 1917. She returned to Australian waters in February 1918.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> October, *Brisbane* was on her way to England when the War ended. She spent a month with the Australian Destroyer Flotilla in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Sea of Marmora and the Black Sea before completing her voyage to Portsmouth, where she received a complete refit.

On the way back to Australia, Brisbane was redirected to escort to Sydney a "J" Class submarine that had been presented to Australia by the British Admiralty.

Lionel transferred to the *Penguin* three months after HMAS *Brisbane* arrived back in Australia. He remained on the ship until the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1920, when he was discharged.

Lionel married Daisy Crowe in New South Wales in 1920. The couple had two children, Lionel Gwyllwym Henry (b.1920) and Leonard Francis Alexander (b.1922).

By 1930, the family was living at Waverley in N.S.W. and Lionel was earning a living as a carpenter. His son, Lionel, enlisted in the navy during World War Two and, like his father, worked as a stoker.

Daisy died in 1958 and Lionel in 1967, probably at the Repatriation General Hospital in Concord.



HMAS Brisbane  
Courtesy [www.navy.gov.au](http://www.navy.gov.au)



## Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Harvey, Heather

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# HENDERSON MM

## Eric Roy

### Service No: 3816



PTE. E. R. HENDERSON

Courtesy National Archives of Australia

### Basic Information

Name: Eric Roy Henderson

Service Number: 3816

Date of Enlistment: 30/8/ 1915

Age at Enlistment: 19 years

Civil Occupation: Miner

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star,

Military Medal



Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Dark

Father: Patrick George Henderson

Mother: Eliza Scotcher

Siblings: Charlotte(Lottie), Francis George, Ella, Cyril Alfred

Married: No

## Life Story

Eric Roy Henderson was born at York in 1896. He was the youngest of Eliza and Patrick's five children. When he was only a baby, the family moved to Meckering and from there to Menzies, where Eric was educated.

After completing his education, Eric worked as a miner in Kalgoorlie and completed his cadet training with the 84<sup>th</sup> Goldfields Infantry Battalion which was based in Kalgoorlie.

He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 1915. His elder brother, Cyril, had enlisted a year earlier and was already fighting at Gallipoli.

After completing training at Blackboy Hill, Eric embarked for Europe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1915 aboard RMS *Mongolia* as part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Reinforcement of the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1916, he joined the Battalion in France but, on the 10<sup>th</sup> May, transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Trench Mortar Battery where he served until his discharge in 1919.



A post card that Eric sent to his elder sister Ella on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1917, while serving in France.

Courtesy Dawn and Terry Leitch

It was while serving with the Battery that Eric was awarded the Military Medal, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1916, for Bravery in the Field.

The report read:

*At Ypres on 28<sup>th</sup> September while a heavy duel was taking place between our Stokes Mortars and the enemy's Ninenwerfers this man (with others) did excellent work in assisting to dig out two of his comrades who were buried by one of enemy's heavy shell. He worked hard for nearly two hours, nearly the whole time under heavy bomb and shell fire until the men were unearthed.*

Eric, like his brother Cyril became very unwell while serving in the trenches, suffering from bouts of influenza. First hospitalized on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1917, he recovered and was discharged on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1917, only to be readmitted thirteen days' later suffering from otitis media in his left ear.

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Discharged from hospital on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 1918, Eric re-joined his unit on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January and served at the Front from July until the Armistice.

He sailed for Australia on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1919, aboard the RTA *Anchises* and disembarked at Albany on the 7<sup>th</sup> April. Eric was admitted to the No. 8 Australian General Hospital at Fremantle four days' later, suffering another bout of otitis media that likely resulted from continued bouts of influenza.

In the 1920s, Eric lived in Fremantle and worked as a labourer. During the Depression in the 1930s he, and his brother Cyril, re-opened the Black Jack mine, originally worked by their father before the War.



Eric and Cyril Henderson working at Black Jack Mine circa 1930  
Courtesy Dawn and Terry Leitch

The pair applied for the lease in 1933 and entered into a syndicate arrangement with three other men. The syndicate was doomed from the beginning, and the men ended up in court after disagreeing about the Estate of one of the other partners who had died only weeks after the agreement was finalised.

After the disastrous syndicate Eric was more cautious about going into partnerships. He worked mostly on his own, prospecting in the Goldfields until his death in 1951.

# RESIDENCY MUS



Eric Henderson's camp at Black Jack Mine

Courtesy Dawn and Terry Leitch



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#### Basic Information

Name: Cyril Alfred Henderson

Service Number: 639

Date of Enlistment: 10/3/ 1915



Age at Enlistment: 21 years

Civil Occupation: Labourer

# RESIDENCY MUSEUM

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star



Height: 5 feet 10 inches

Weight: 142 pounds

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: Patrick George Henderson

Mother: Eliza Scotcher

Siblings: Charlotte(Lottie), Francis George, Ella, Eric Roy

Married: Margaret Anne O'Reilly

## Life Story

Cyril Alfred Henderson was born to Patrick and Eliza Henderson at York in 1894. Patrick moved to the Goldfields in 1896 and, according to family information, his wife and family were living in Meckering from about 1898. As Meckering was a stop on the Kalgoorlie train line, it would have been easy for Patrick to visit his family.

By 1906, the whole family were living in the Goldfields. Based on the



# RESIDENCY MUSEUM

By the time of his enlistment at Southern Cross in 1915, Cyril was working in Bullfinch. He joined the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion and, after training, sailed from Alexandria aboard the HY *Invernia* on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 1915, bound for Gallipoli.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> October, Cyril was admitted to the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance suffering from rheumatism and myalgia. He was evacuated from Gallipoli and transferred by hospital ship to the 21<sup>st</sup> General Hospital in Alexandria, where he was diagnosed with severe rheumatic fever.

After his return to duty, in early January, Cyril was Taken on Strength by the Camel Corps in Abbassia. He was to spend the remainder of his War service in the Middle East.

In September 1916, Cyril found himself hospitalised again, this time suffering from the effects of venereal disease, a common affliction for soldiers at the time. After fourteen days of treatment, he re-joined the No. 2 Imperial Camel Corps before embarking HT *Sollum* at Alexandria to join the 1<sup>st</sup> ANZAC Battalion.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1917, Cyril was again admitted to hospital suffering from “disordered action of the heart.” It is possible that his heart condition was caused by his rheumatic fever.

Cyril was transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian General Hospital then sent to the 1<sup>st</sup> British Red Cross hospital at Montazah before being discharged to the Australian Base Depot at Abbassia at the end of August.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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View of the 1<sup>st</sup> British Red Cross hospital at Montazah  
Courtesy Australian War Memorial

Cyril returned to his battalion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November but was soon back in hospital suffering from diarrhoea. He remained there until the 20<sup>th</sup> November 1917.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1918, Cyril transferred to the Light Horse but returned to hospital with influenza on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

In November, he was charged with being absent from camp and out of bounds and, as a result, was fined six days' pay.

Cyril's health must have continued to be an issue as, on the 21<sup>st</sup> November, he was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Stationary Hospital (Australian Special Hospital) at Port Said which probably meant lighter duties. However, on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1919, Cyril was fined again for being

# RESIDENCY MUSEUM



On the 16<sup>th</sup> March, he was sent to the Australian Imperial Forces Headquarters at Cairo before being attached to the No. 14 Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on the 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Cyril was in trouble again on the 17<sup>th</sup> July, when he was fined three days' pay for "neglect of duty while on picket duty." Records state that Cyril had allowed four unauthorised people to enter the hospital.

Cyril returned to Australia aboard the *Delta* and arrived in Western Australian on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1919.

By 1922, he was working as a labourer in the Bunbury area.

At some point Cyril took out a lease on a property near Bridgetown under the Soldier Settlement Scheme, but he called for tenders to purchase the lease in 1924. It is likely that he was unable to make the necessary repayments, a common problem for servicemen who acquired properties under the Scheme.

By 1925, Cyril had returned to the Goldfields and was living in Kanowna, earning his living as a carter. He married Margaret O'Reilly in Perth in 1928 and spent some time living in the metropolitan area before returning to Kalgoorlie.

With his brother, Eric, and three other men, Cyril reopened the Black Jack mine at Yunddaga which had previously been worked by their father. The venture was not successful and ended up in court when a member of their syndicate died only weeks after their agreement was finalised.

Cyril continued to work as a prospector throughout the 1930s.

During the Second World War, he enlisted in the Citizens' Military Forces, joining at Swanbourne in April 1941. His service was short-lived, possibly

due to ill-health, and, in October 1941, he applied for, and was granted, a discharge.



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In 1951, there was a mortgagee sale of gold mining leases at Marvel Loch, including machinery, plant, and chattels. Cyril was listed as one of the owners and, according to family recollections, he was living in Leonora at this time.

Between 1963 and 1972, Cyril and his wife were both registered on the electoral roll as living at 301 Hay Street in Kalgoorlie.

Cyril died at East Coolgardie in 1974. He was buried at the Kalgoorlie Cemetery with his brother, Eric, who had died in 1951.

## Acknowledgements

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# HENDERSON RESIDENCY MUSEUM Francis George



Service No: 4440

## Basic Information

Name: Francis George Henderson

Service Number: 4440

**YORK'S**  
**ANZACS**







Date of Enlistment: 3/3/ 1916

Age at Enlistment: 26 years 2 months

# RESIDENCY MUSEUM

Civil Occupation: Shunter



Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 9 ½ inches

Weight: 160 pounds

Chest Measurement: 37 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Patrick George Henderson

Mother: Eliza Scotcher

Siblings: Charlotte(Lottie), Cyril Alfred, Ella, Eric Roy

Married: Agnes McCallum Petrie

Children: Francis John, Ronald George and Ian Patrick

## Life Story

Francis George was born in Albany in 1889. Like his brothers, he was probably educated at Menzies and grew up in the Goldfields area.



In 1912, Francis married Agnes McCallum Petrie. Agnes was living in Boulder in 1909, when the Henderson family were working the Black Jack mine at Woolgar/Yunndaga, so it is possible that the couple met around this time. However, when the marriage was announced, the newspaper recorded his address as Perth, and Agnes was listed as being from Maylands. The marriage took place at Meckering and was registered in the Northam District.

By 1912, Francis' address, according to the electoral roll, was Meckering, and he was working as a labourer. At the end of the year, Francis was employed by Western Australian Government Railways (W.A.G.R) as a repairer at Grass Valley.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1913, Francis passed his medical examination and was appointed as Porter at Narrogin.

Between April 1914 and early 1915, his employment record noted several cautions and/or fines for various offences such as damaging a bath belonging to a Mr Anderson (which resulted in a claim against W.A.G.R.), failing to produce required invoices, and goods short-delivered. On another occasion, inattention to duty resulted in the loss of turkeys and another claim against W.A.G.R.

Francis was appointed as a shunter at Narrogin on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1915 and appears to have had no further conduct problems until the last entry on his employment record, dated the 19<sup>th</sup> February 1916, when he was dismissed with the notation "Stealing goods, the property of The Commissioner." There was no indication on the record as to what goods were stolen. By this time, Francis and Agnes had three children, the youngest having just been born. They may have been struggling financially.

Francis enlisted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1916 and, after training in Egypt, he left Alexandria aboard the *Scotian*, bound for France, disembarking at Marseilles on the 18<sup>th</sup> May.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, Francis was Taken on Strength with the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion which had been fighting in the Battle of Pozieres between July 28<sup>th</sup> and early August.



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After the Battle, the Battalion was sent to a quieter sector of the front in Belgium before returning to take part in the Battle of the Somme to the east of Flers late in 1916.

Conditions were bad: as well as fighting the enemy, soldiers had to endure the coldest winter in living memory. The fighting was disorganised and there were many casualties.

Somewhere between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November, Francis was Killed in Action at Fleur Baix. He was twenty-eight.

Francis has no known grave but is commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial. He left behind a widow and three young children.

## Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

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