

Day, Mervyn Dove

ASC 1902-06

Finding Another of the “Fallen Saints”

Over the years, through which, I slowly collected material for these dossiers. The focus concentrated just on the list in the School History, of 34 of our Fallen. There was little reflection; or clue, that there might be any others to add to that tally? I recall that my new findings on one, *Martin*, were published in *Vim* back in 2009. It was only in June 2013, that the above name was found and had to be duly added to the list.

I had been trying to obtain data on our *Ken Day*, from sources in Molong, Parkes and Forbes. Whilst I received various suggestions, none bore fruit. However, one friend in Parkes did provide that “*Trove*” was in the process of digitizing newspapers in the above towns, these, fortunately; (along with those in Bathurst) gave breakthroughs! This lead led to a “trove” of information for the project, as material came to hand.

Thus, one weekend in June 2013, I read a Bathurst account of Ken’s death. This included the words-----.

“The lamentable death of the brave young officer comes as a great blow to his highly respected parents and the other members of the family, **especially occurring so soon after the death of poor Mervyn** in the fighting line and profound sympathy is felt for the sorrowing family.

Molong Argus 2/11/17 P.4

That was interesting, who was “poor Mervyn?”

The cards then fell quickly. I again, consulted the ASC School Register? Yes, there were the brothers listed. This finding also provided the sad statistic, that along with the Brufords; our 35 comprised two sets of brothers. (The “35” later became “36”, with the discovery of Korff.)

Register:

DAWSON, S. B. (Stiles, L. 1919).
DAY, Kenneth (Watson, 1945-6). Sydney.
DAY, Kenneth Maitland (Britten). Auditor. Great War, killed
DAY, Mervyn (Britten, 1902-6). Molong. Bank officer.
DEAKIN, Andrew Charles (Evans, 1961). Sydney.

Note that Ken, (who was not an “Auditor” was listed as “killed,” but Mervyn who was a “Farm Hand,” was not? Thus, no clue was offered here, that he was one of our Fallen.

Of course, this then explained why the “second” Day name was on the Molong church plaque, pictured below. This plaque had been known of, by me, for some time and I had even written to the Minister, at the Church, (no reply) to investigate their records. But in consequence of not expecting an ASC man, to be a N.Z, “Rifleman” (as thereon inscribed), one did not investigate further!

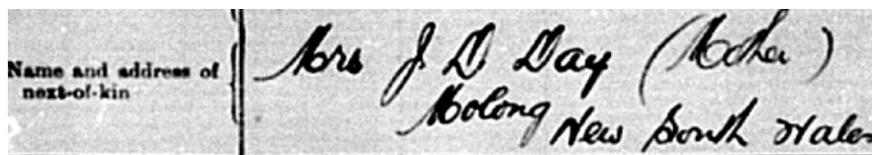
Furthermore, one had earlier missed another lead, in discovering Mervyn. In the extract following, from a 1919 *Bathurstian*. Mervyn (the last on this list) was one of those indicated as “*Killed.” But again, the data was not then taken on to the “official” list. Indeed, looking over some of the names, various corrections and additions could also be made (see below.)

Mervyn Day of Molong, whilst playing football at All Saints' College, had one of his legs broken.

S.M.H. Mon. 20/8/06 P.8

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Day have received word that their son Mervyn D. Day has enlisted with the 9th Reinforcements in New Zealand, after having been delayed for some considerable time owing to defective teeth.

Molong Argus 6/8/1915 P.4



Pte Mervyn Day, son of Mr. and Mrs. Day, of the local Commercial Bank, was killed in France on Sept. 20. A cable to this effect was received from Sgt. Kenneth Day this week. The deceased soldier was 27 years of age, and enlisted in New Zealand about a year ago, reaching the trenches in May. He was very popular in Molong, where he was secretary of the P.P. Board prior to his departure for Queensland four years ago. We extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

Molong Express 14/10/16 P.10.

IN MEMORIAM SERVICE.

TO PTE. MERVYN DAY.

On Sunday morning at 11 a.m. at St. John's Church of England, Molong, an "In Memoriam" service will be held to the memory of the late Pte. Mervyn Day who was reported killed in action in France on 20th Sept. last.

Rev. Levers received the official confirmation of the sad news on Friday last.

Molong Argus 20/10/1916 P.4

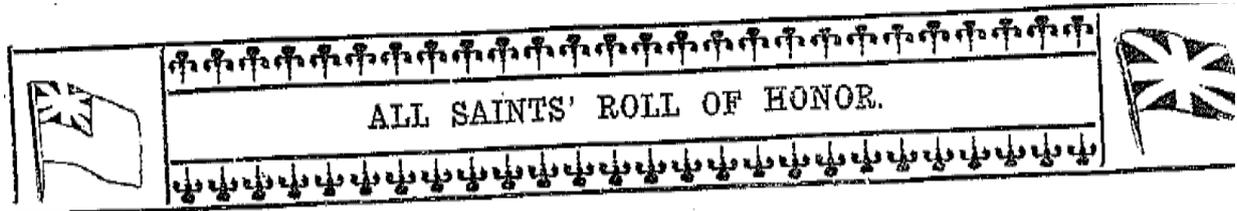
The Late Rifleman Mervyn Day

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Day (of the local Commercial Bank) have received the following letter from their son, Sgt. K. M. Day, relative to the death of their son (Rifleman Mervyn Day), who was reported killed, a few months ago, while fighting in France :

"Somewhere in France, 28/10/16. To Sgt, K. M. Day, your letter to hand of a few days ago re your brother's death, well, he was killed in a Switch Trench, near Flers village, on the 20th Sept. An H.E. shell (high explosive) burst on the edge of the parapet and killed him instantly. I, personally, was within a few feet of him at the time, and we were being heavily shelled that night, when we were changing over two men and myself buried him not far from where he

was killed. When informing your people, give them my deepest sympathy, and tell them was one of the bravest of the brave and that it was his sort that made the 15th Sep. such a success for our Battalion. Sgt. York D. . .”

Molong Argus 29/12/1916 P.2



*Killed

†Wounded.

Armstrong, J., Midshipman, H.M.A.S. Australia.	a'Beckett, H., Lieutenant, M.C.†
Allen, Stanley B. Tinning, Private.	1st Infantry Battalion.
Allen, A. W. Tinning, Lieutenant M.M., Mouquet	a'Beckett, John, Driver, Field Engineers
Farm, August, 1916, and Medaille Militaire.	Beddie, S., Captain, M.C.†
Avern, G. S. Sergeant.	Beveridge, A.S., Private.
New Zealand Army Medical Corps.	Blacket, Alan, Lieutenant*
Avern, Clive, Driver.	19th Infantry Battalion.
Australian Army Motor Transport.	Blackshaw, Colin.
Allison, J., Bombardier.	Burkitt, E. H.
Barton, Lyon, Gunner.	Bosworth, Sergeant.
Barton, John, Lieutenant,	Brown, R., Trooper.
54th Infantry Battalion	Brown, M. R., Gunner.
Barton, Arthur B., Trooper†	Brown, Lieut. W. R.
12th Light Horse Regiment.	Brain, T., Gunner.
Barton, Ja'B. Darval, Captain.	Ball, S. O'B., Captain, Chaplain.
Australian Army Medical Corps.	Callaghan, F.
Barton, M. D., Lance Corporal,	Crango, C. H., Gunner.
Australian Wireless Signal Squadron.	Carter, J., Trooper†
Barton, Alan, Major, D.S.O.,	Chauncey, A., Private.
Australian Army Medical Corps.	Collings, L. G., Sergeant†
Barton, Brian, Trooper,*	Cornisk, M. M., Private.
6th Light Horse Regiment.	Cunningham, W. A. F., Lieutenant.
Bean, J. M., Captain†	Cunningham, H., Gunner.
Bean, Charles E. W., Captain, Official War Cor-	Dixson, T. S., Lieutenant.*
respondent, A.I.F.	Coldstream Guards.
Barry, Duncan Robertson, Sapper.	Day, Mervyn.*
Field Engineers.	

(Copied from: *The Bathurstian*, Vol. 5 June 1919 #1 PP 14-17. State Library of N.S.W.)

Auckland War Memorial

Full Name:	Mervyn Dove Day
Rank Last Held:	Rifleman
Serial No.:	26/541
Place of Birth:	Australia
Occupation before Enlistment:	Farm hand
Next of Kin:	Mrs J.D. Day (mother), Molong, NSW
Last Unit Served:	New Zealand Rifle Brigade, 4th Battalion,
Place of Death:	Somme, France
Date of Death:	20 September 1916
Cause of Death:	Killed in action
Memorial Name:	Caterpillar Valley (New Zealand) Memorial, Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France
Biographical Notes:	Mervyn Day was the son of John Nodes Dickinson Day and Archanna Day, of "Corrimal," Benton Avenue, Artarmon, Sydney, Native of Parkes, NSW

MEMORIAL AND DEDICATION SERVICE.

St Johns Anglican Church, Molong, Molong.

There was a large and representative attendance at St. St John's Anglican Church on Saturday afternoon last, to witness the dedication and unveiling of a memorial tablet placed in the church by Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Day in memory of their *two sons* Lieut. Kenneth Maitland Day and Rifleman Mervyn Dove Day.

Molong Argus 23/7/20 P.5



In proud and loving memory of Lieut. Kenneth Maitland Day 35th Battalion, A.I.F. Killed in Action 12th October 1917 at Passchendaele aged 30 years also Rifleman Mervyn Dove Day 4th Batt 3rd New Zealand Rifle Brigade Killed in action 20th September 1916 at Flers on the Somme aged 27 years 'We Thank Thee for the Brave & Faithful Dead.'

THE LATE, PTE. M. D. DAY.

Mrs. J. D. Day, of the Commercial Bank, Molong, has received the following communications relative to her son, Pte. Mervyn Day, who was killed in action on the 20th Sept. The first is from Robt. Campbell, Sergt. 15 Platoon, D Company, 4th Battalion, 4 Battalion NZRB and is from France, dated 1st Nov. 1916 and the letter from the Hon. T. Mackenzie, High Commissioner for New Zealand, in England

:"Dear Mrs. Day, I write on behalf of the men of 15 Platoon to tender you our sincere sympathy in your sad bereavement and to assure you that we feel very keenly this loss of a good soldier and a splendid comrade.

"Your son 26/511, M. D. Day was killed instantly by the bursting of a shell while we were holding the trenches which we took from the Germans at the Somme. It will, I know, be a consolation to you to know that he suffered no pain whatever. He was buried close to where he fell fighting for his country and humanity, and it might be a consolation to you to know that he died so nobly, for sorely there must be something better in store for those who sacrifice all for so just a cause."

Note in this next letter, the High Commissioner was probably using a standardized text which was as to a Kiwi mother and not to an Aussie.

Dear Madam, It is with much regret that I learned of your great sorrow, and I wish I could tell you personally how much I share your bereavement. Your loss is also our Dominion's loss; it is men like your son who make our country great. He has made for others the great sacrifice and his record is immortal. After all, it is not his length of life that counts, but the cause for which he lived and died and what be put into life.

"Were you here, you would be moved to see how splendidly our troops have carried all before them, not only in the Field where they have held their own with the best. But on this side of the Channel, winning all hearts by their honorable bearing and nobleness, and because they are all each splendid young fellows; every day I find new reasons to be proud of New Zealand's bravo sons.

"With my heartfelt sympathy,

Yours very truly,

T. Mackenzie
Molong Argus 23/7/20 P.5

DAVIS H.W.
DAY M.D.
DEMPSEY I

War Memorial, Wellington N.Z.

REC'D 6 JAN 1922
 503284
 RECEIPT FOR MEMORIAL PLAQUE.
 Army Form

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE
 26/541 Mervyn Dove Day
 Mrs J. L. Day
 1001 Belmont Avenue
 Hartman, A. S. C.
 30/12/26

STATEMENT OF THE SERVICES OF No. 26/541 NAME

Regiment or Corps	Promotions, Reductions, Qualities, etc.	Rank	Date
	Private	Private	13/10/15

Army Form B. 103. **Casualty Form—Active Service.** Regimental Number 26/541

Regiment or Corps *D. Coy & P. Batt. 5th Div. (R.) B.*
 Rank *Pvt.* Surname *Day* Christian Name *Mervyn Dove*
 Religion _____ Age on Enlistment _____ years _____ months
 Enlisted (a) *11/10/15* Terms of Service (a) *End of War* Service reckons from (a) *11/10/15*

Date	Particulars	Rank	Date
	Disembarked ...	<i>Suez</i>	<i>15/3/16</i>
<i>7/4/16</i>	<i>of 4 P. Batt. Embarked for France per steamer Alexandria</i>		<i>7/4/16</i>
<i>24/9/16</i>	<i>of 4 P. Batt. Killed in action</i>		<i>In the field France 20/9/16</i>

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE.

At St. John's Church, Molong, on Sunday night a special service was conducted by the Rector (Rev. J. A. Poole) to commemorate the ninth anniversary of The Armistice and the termination of the war. Hymns suitable to the occasion were sung, and lessons were read from the Books of Wisdom and Revelation. Prayers were offered for the continuance of peace, for the King, the British Empire, and for those who still sufferer because of the war.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall commemorate them, especially remembering ----- **Kenneth and Mervyn Day**-----.