




# An ANZAC<sup>1</sup> (with a difference) from King's Somborne,<sup>2</sup> Hampshire, England (updated October 2010)

## *15/92 Sergeant Sydney John VINE MM*

By Bob Vine

This is the story of my Grandfather, [Sergeant Sydney John Vine MM](#) who was born at Upper Brook, King's Somborne, Hampshire, England on 7 November 1887. His resting place may be found in the Church of England Section, Karori Cemetery, Wellington, New Zealand; Plot 105 G CH ENG2 to be precise, He had died at Wellington Hospital on 8 July 1922 of Pneumonia, with his Service Records showing "*Death due to war service*".

The story updates that published in The New Zealand Genealogist, March/April 2007.

<p>15/92 Sgt S. J. Vine MM Field Artillery Died 8-7-1922 Aged 35</p> 	 <p>Church of England Section, Karori Cemetery, Wellington, New Zealand</p>	 <p>Servicemen's Section, Karori Cemetery</p>
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<sup>1</sup> Acronym for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. See <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/Gallery/Anzac/ANZACes.htm> for further information.

<sup>2</sup> General Information from Wikipedia:

King's Somborne is a village in Hampshire, England. The village lies on the edge of the valley of the River Test. The 'Sombornes' comprise the scattered village of King's Somborne, together with the hamlets of Little Somborne, Up Somborne, and Ashley.

Between King's Somborne and the river lies John of Gaunt's Deer Park and to the south the Romans had a river crossing. King's Somborne had its own drove road used by travellers unwilling to pay the tolls on the turnpike roads to Stockbridge and the Fair. Cruck beams still survive from the 15th century flint and chalk cottages in the village. These beams were whole timbers curving from the roof to the ground. Nearby Marsh Court is built entirely of blocks of local chalk and designed by Edwin Lutyens, as was the War memorial which stands in the village. The original garden plan for Marsh Court was designed by Gertrude Jekyll. Somborne Park is the home of the Hervey-Bathurst family and Compton Park was the home of the late Sir Thomas Sopwith of aviation fame. The cliffs at Brook are a local landmark where chalk is extracted.

At Ashley, near Farley Mount, the Normans built a large castle and the tiny 12th century church (now redundant) is built within what was the bailey of that castle. The ecclesiastical Parish of Somborne with Ashley must surely be unique in having three restored or conserved redundant churches within its boundaries.

Why then is this English born and bred Grandfather of mine lying peacefully in a Serviceman's grave rather incongruously located in the Anglican Section of Karori Cemetery, across a gully from the Servicemen's Section containing the final resting places of a number of his comrades who had also passed away on their return to New Zealand after the Great War? I shall go back over his life's history in an endeavour to hit upon some conclusions.

The village of King's Somborne lies just south of Winchester, and The Brook is an enclave of farm cottages on the opposite side of the road to Compton Manor, at one time the home of Sir Thomas Sopwith the designer of the English biplane called the Sopwith Camel that finally brought down the Red Baron, Manfred von Richtofen during the Great War.

Sydney descended from a line of Dorsetshire Labourers, eight generations of whom I have been able to trace. His type was splendidly portrayed by Thomas Hardy in an essay which appeared in Longman's Magazine, July, 1883.

He was the fourth son of Harry Vine and Annie Hannah Crumpler, whose family comprised 12 children, 5 sons and 7 daughters. His father's occupation was given as Thatcher when the birth was registered by his mother at Stockbridge in the County of Southampton on 15 November 1887.

Sydney was baptised at King's Somborne on 1 April 1888, having been born at Upper Brook near the village of King's Somborne on 7 November 1887.



*Upper Brook*



St.Peter & St.Paul's is the Parish Church of Somborne with Ashley situated at the heart of the village of King 's Somborne.

His family, as was the norm in those times for agricultural labourers did not stay in any one place for long and migrated from farm to farm, all of which lay in relatively close proximity to each other.

We find the family variously at:

- Holbrook, Somerset, circa 1877 (given as birthplace of eldest son, William H, aged 14, Shepherd Boy, 1891 Census),
- Telfont Magna, Wiltshire, circa 1879 (given as birthplace of second son, Cecil H, aged 12, Gardeners Boy, 1891 Census),
- East Parley, Hampshire 1881 (from Census of that year and the home place of his Grandparents). East Parley is now the location of the Bournemouth Sports Club and International Airport,
- West Parley, Dorset 1883 (given as birthplace of Eva W, aged 7, Scholar, 1891 Census),
- Brook, King's Somborne in 1891,
- Lavant, Sussex for the 1901 Census
- Chilgrove, Near Chichester in the 1911 Census
- Father Harry's address in 1914, when given as next-of-kin by Sydney on enlisting for the 1<sup>st</sup> New Zealand Expeditionary Force was 42 Calendonian Road, Chichester, Sussex, with 142 Chilgrove, Chichester deleted.<sup>3</sup>

In the 1901 Census Sydney John is shown as "John", aged 13, occupation Telegraph Messenger. This is just one instance of many within branches of the Vine family using other than correct first names. Of Sydney's four sons, only one used his baptismal name, and he, Sydney, died very soon after birth.

A very significant record of Sydney's time in England, and relative to subsequent events is to be found with the 1911 Census<sup>4</sup>. This records Sydney John Vine as a Servant at Weddington Hall<sup>5</sup>, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, in the household of Henry Cunliffe Shawe. His occupation is given as Groom. Also of significance is that a son, Charles, Rifle Brigade Captain was resident at Weddington Hall.

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<sup>4</sup> *National Archive Reference: RG14PN1108 RD388 SD1 ED6 SN325*

<sup>5</sup> The First War World was to have its own, unique, impact upon Weddington Castle. Changes had already occurred a few years earlier, when, on the 3rd of August 1911 Henry Cunliffe Shawe died, leaving the Estate to his son, Henry Nigel Pole Shawe, who went to live in the Grove in 1912. In March 1916 one [Edward Melly](#) secured the lease of Weddington Hall in order to establish a Red Cross Hospital for wounded soldiers in the building. He paid for much of the equipment needed to make the hospital operational, this on top of several other contributions he and his wife had already made to the war effort. Rooms on the first floor were converted into hospital wards and named after local industrial companies who contributed to their upkeep: "Griff", "Arley", "Hall and Phillips", "Birch Coppice", "Haunchwood" and "Stanleys" were names painted onto the doors of each ward.

On 13 November 1912 we find both “Capt. C Shawe” and “Mr J Vine” departing Southampton, bound for New York, on the White Star Line vessel *Oceanic*<sup>6</sup> with New Zealand shown as their destination. Both share Contract Ticket Number 119314.

The *Evening Post*, 17 December 1912 in the *Late Shipping* column reports the arrival that day of the *Makura* in Auckland from Vancouver with a Mr Vine and Captain Shaw (sic) as passengers. One must assume that they travelled overland after disembarkation from the *Oceanic* in New York, to board *RMS Makura*<sup>7</sup> in Vancouver.



*RMS Makura.*

Granddad’s New Zealand Service Records show that he served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade (British Army) for 7 years sometime prior to 15 August 1914 when he enlisted with the 1<sup>st</sup> New Zealand Expeditionary Force in Wellington, New Zealand. Note the Rifle Brigade connection with Captain Charles Shawe above. At the time of his enlistment his occupation was given as Chauffeur and Manservant, Government House, Wellington, and Employer, Captain Shawe.

An item from the *Evening Post* reveals that Captain Shawe was Aide de Camp to [Lord Liverpool](#), then New Zealand’s Governor.

(BY TELEGRAPH--PRESS ASSOCIATION.)  
AUCKLAND, This Day.  
Passengers by the *Makura* included Captain Shaw, A.D.C., who joins the Governor here; also the members of the Australian football team, which recently toured America.

Search of the National Library’s PapersPast and the *Evening Post*, in particular the Shipping notices, provides some evidence of Sydney’s role at Government House. For example on 12 February 1914 we find His Excellency the Governor with Messrs Shaw (sic) and Vine departing Wellington the previous day on the *Wahine*, ss, for Lyttelton.

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<sup>6</sup> *RMS Oceanic* was a transatlantic ocean liner, built for the White Star Line. She sailed on her maiden voyage on 6 September 1899 and until 1901, was the largest ship in the world. At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, she was commissioned into Royal Navy service on 8 August 1914 as an armed merchant cruiser.

On 25 August 1914, the newly-designated *HMS Oceanic* departed Southampton to patrol the waters from the North Scottish mainland to the Faroes, in particular the area around Shetland, and ran aground and was wrecked off the island of Foula, Shetland on 8 September 1914.

The *Oceanic* was one of the rescue vessels that retrieved bodies from the [sinking of the RMS Titanic](#) in the [North Atlantic Ocean](#).

<sup>7</sup> R.M.S. MAKURA was part in the Sydney to Vancouver service via Brisbane, Honolulu and Victoria and later Suva and Auckland. This “All Red Route” as it was known provided the final link in the round the world connections between British colonies. For this a new ship was needed and the MAKURA was purpose built. She entered service November 23, 1908 and was withdrawn when she arrived in Wellington in December 1936. On January 27, 1937 MAKURA left Wellington for the last time on route to Shanghai where she had been sold for breaking up.

Life at Government House was not “all work, no play”, to which the following from the *Evening Post*, 22 February 1913 attests:

CRICKET  
Evening Post, Volume LXXXV, Issue 45, 22 February 1913, Page 9

CRICKET  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE v. TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

Despite the excellent all-round form shown by His Excellency in the match between a Government House team and the Telephone Exchange yesterday, the former were well beaten. Thanks to the sound first wicket partnership of D. and R. Parton, the Exchange side hit up 107 for eight wickets, when they "declared." Lord Liverpool captured five wickets for 66. The Government House team could only manage 107, and of this total Eastwood (41) and His Excellency (31) accounted for 72. D. Parton took five wickets for 42. Afternoon tea was provided by the Government House party.

Scores are as follow:—

Telephone Exchange.—First Innings.	
D. Parton, c Wilson, b Lord Liverpool	74
R. Parton, c Gaffney, b Shawe	36
Mages, c Vine, b Shawe	1
Webb, c Gaffney, b Lord Liverpool	34
Knight, b Lord Liverpool	2
Rance, b Eastwood	21
Paulney, not out	5
M'Intosh, b Lord Liverpool	11
Barton, not out	1
Follock, c Wilson, b Lord Liverpool	2
Extras	7
Total for eight wickets	187
Bowling Analysis.—Shawe took two wickets for 34 runs; Lord Liverpool, five for 66; Eastwood, one for 18.	
Government House.—First Innings.	
Eastwood, c Rance, b D. Parton	41

Bailey, b Mages	3
Lord Liverpool, b M'Intosh	31
Moore, c R. Parton, b D. Parton	6
Bryant, c and b D. Parton	0
Wilson, c Knight, b Hayes	4
M'Kenna, c Follock, b D. Parton	2
Vine, run out	0
Norris, not out	7
Lyons, c Paulney, b D. Parton	0
Gaffney, run out	0
Extras	13
Total	107
Bowling Analysis.—D. Parton took five wickets for 42 runs; M'Gee, one for 23; M'Intosh, one for 10; Hayes, one for 25.	

Papers Past — Evening Post — 22 February 1913

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&appor=1&cl=search&id=EP19...> 18/02/2008

My research of this time reveals that Sydney was not the only Vine of our line resident in Wellington at that time. The other was a first cousin, Albert George Vine, a former Gunner, Royal Marine Artillery who was in 1901 on board *HMS Royal Arthur* in Sydney. Sydney John may not have been unaware of this, unless he did not read the newspapers, as Albert's first wife Mary (aka Violet Edmonds) was regularly before the Court for drunkenness. Albert after divorcing Mary in December 1911 remarried in 1912 and died in 1920. He lies in an unmarked grave at the Karori Cemetery, not too far distant from Sydney's burial site.

Of note is the fact that my Father, William John (Jack) Vine, was born on 29 July 1914 at Shoreham by Sea in Sussex, with his father on the opposite side of the World. This was just a fortnight prior to Sydney John enlisting in Wellington for 1NZE.

Dad's mother, [Winifride Annie Edwards](#), born Maidstone, Kent 1888, was at the time of his conception, like Sydney John, an employee at Government House in Wellington. She had arrived in New Zealand on the *Ruapehu* which had departed London on 24 October 1912. Winifrede's occupation on the Boarding List is given as "Scullerymaid". Given that many of her fellow passengers had occupations related to domestic duties it would be safe to assume that they were to serve at Government House in Wellington.

She had returned to England on board the New Zealand Shipping Company's liner *Ruahine* which sailed for London on 15 January 1914. It is interesting to note that Sydney would not have been quayside to farewell her as he was, as noted above, in the South Island on that day.

My father William John VINE, was also, I suppose, "aboard". We can treat this with some humour now but it would have been rather different in that day and age. This is borne out by the fact that Winifrede did not return to her own Edwards family in Middlesex but sought "refuge" in Sussex with Sydney John's family, in particular father



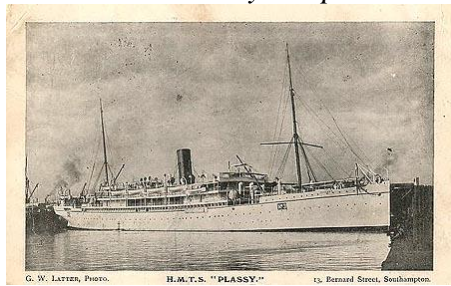
Harry, until the arrival of Sydney John in England via Egypt, Gallipoli and Malta and their marriage on 25 September 1915. Confirmation of this is a letter I have from late cousin Pat (nee Murray) in Perth telling of Winifrede's mother saying that no daughter of hers would ever be allowed home if pregnant outside of marriage.

The return of Winifrede to England leads one to speculate that Sydney's enlistment in 1NZEF might have been motivated by his wish to rejoin Winifrede with his new born son, my Dad, William John (in the Vine tradition to be known as "Jack") in England? If this was the case, it led to a rather bizarre and risky chain of events that eventually allowed his marriage, but unfortunately resulted in an early death.

Sydney marched into Wellington Camp on the day of his enlistment and left New Zealand for Suez 2 months later on 16 October 1914. This was the first leg of the trip leading to reunification with the mother of his first child.

On 25 April 1915 he was with the ill fated landing at [Anzac Cove](#) on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The next entry in his Service records reads: *15 August 1915 - "Field Return - Sick to Hospital Ship - Dardenelles" 19 August 1915 - Ships Roll - Embarked for Malta per HS Ascania -19-8-15 Dysentery"*, followed by: *5 September 1915 - "C/- 'A' Section - Embarked for England per 'Plassy' - Jaundice" 12 September 1915 - "War Office - Admitted to Military Hospital New End, Hampstead"*



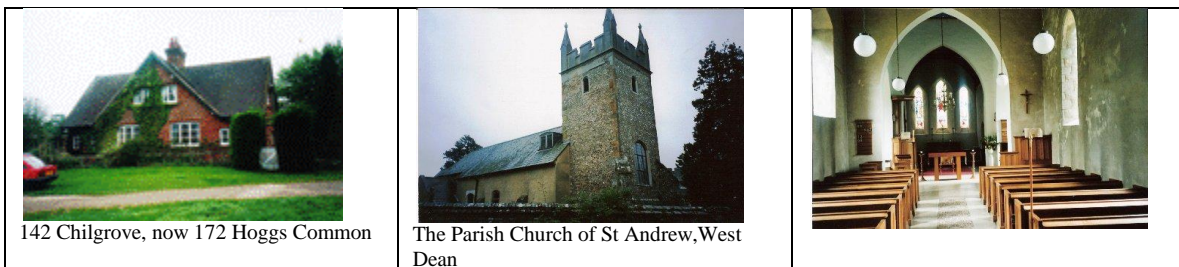
H.M.T.S Plassy

The History of the New Zealand Artillery NZEF - 1914 -18 – Byrne records: *Obviously it is impossible for an army in the field to carry into practice all the laws of sanitation that ordinarily govern a civilised community. The soldiers are too busy fighting for one thing; too busy at times to even bury their dead; and for a host of other reasons the sanitation of a fighting army must always be a matter of difficulty, and, especially in a warm climate, a source of anxiety. At Anzac these difficulties were intensified a hundred-fold by the circumstance that for many months the force was confined to the narrow strip of country on which it first established itself. From the outset nothing was left undone to keep the area as clean as possible, and so minimise the risks of an outbreak of disease; but inevitably much of the ground became foul, and formed breeding places for myriads of flies, which swarmed everywhere, and seriously aggravated the already prevalent dysentery. The colonials had experienced the fly plague in Egypt, which was a natural breeding ground for anything that had its origin in filth; but the flies in Egypt were a pleasant and soothing companionship compared to the voracious hosts that from dawn to dusk tormented the very souls of these*

*unfortunate campaigners at Anzac. No efforts could keep them out of the food. They came from the unburied dead in NO Man's Land, and from the gaping latrines, and buzzed about the supply depots, and swarmed even on the very food as the soldier conveyed it to his mouth. Small wonder that the great majority of the force suffered from dysentery and diarrhoea as the season advanced"*

Grandfather was at last rather perilously back in England and able to correct the illegitimate status of his first child. Only a few days after his arrival back in England, on 28 September 1915, he married Winifride Anne Edwards (Spinster), at West Dean, near Chichester, Sussex with the ceremony being conducted by Algernon Lucy, Vicar.

His Dad Harry, at that time, resided about half a mile down a little country lane at 142 Chilgrove. Harry was a labourer on the West Dean Estate owned by [Edward James](#).



On 1 April 1916 we find that Sydney was "Transferred to DAC (Divisional Ammunition Column) from DHQ - Moascar<sup>89</sup> - with Lt Col M. M. Gardner N.Z.F.A. and on 8 April 1916 '10/C DAC - Embarked for France per EMS Haverford - Alexandria"

*"Proceeded to Base, Etaples for transfer to 6th Reserve Btn Rifle Bde"*

*5 May 1916 " O/C NZI&G Base Depot - Marched into Base Depot - Etaples"*

The history of the New Zealand Artillery - p 105 - *"Before the Division was ordered into the line at Armentieres some further substantial alteration was made in the composition of the artillery brigades. The howitzer batteries were distributed between the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Brigades, and the 4th Brigade was made to consist of three 18pr. Batteries - ----- Brigade Ammunition Columns were abolished, and a 4th Section was added to the Divisional Ammunition Column commanded by Lieut-Colonel M.M. Gard'ner"*

Then follows time back in England at Command Depots at Hornchurch, Codford on the edge of Salisbury Plain, and eventually with the New Zealand Reserve Group at Sling.

11 October 1916 saw Sydney marched out to Division, Etaples and 16 October taken on the strength of 1 Brigade, 15<sup>th</sup> Battery in the Field. Thus Sydney re-entered the hostilities towards the conclusion of the New Zealand Division's involvement in the [Battle of the Somme](#).

The New Zealand Division, after having held the line at Armentieres for three months had marched out to join the Battle of the Somme on 18 March 1916, where for over six weeks the British and French Armies had been engaged in the most desperate of battles which had yet been fought. The 1st and 2nd Brigades relieved two brigades of the 33rd Divisional Artillery, and were attached to the 14th Divisional Artillery, less the 15th Battery, which was placed under the orders of the 23rd Heavy Artillery Group, and during operations on the Somme was engaged on counter-battery work.

The History of the New Zealand Artillery - p129 records *"11 September saw 15th Battery moved up to a new position near Longueval."*

The History of the New Zealand Artillery - p143 *October was a bad month for the batteries. It rained almost incessantly; the batteries were heavily shelled in their advanced and exposed positions and lost a great many of their personnel; and for the drivers and men of the Ammunition Column, the journey to the guns was a nightly struggle against the elements; while since the departure of the rest of the Division the rations had become so meagre and unvaried to warrant the making of representations on the subject, after which there was an improvement.*

Promotions came Sydney's way on the Front: 10 March 1917 appointed Acting Bombardier; 28 April 1917 appointed Acting Corporal; 6 June promoted to Corporal; 19 July appointed Temporary Sergeant, vice 2/1103 Sergeant Symes, Killed in Action. Finally on 17 November 1917 he was promoted to Sergeant *"to complete establishment"* and when he was *"detached to England on duty"*.

12 August 1917 he proceeded on leave to UK and returned on 26 August. This may have been related to the health of his second son, Sydney Charles who had been born on 24 April in Chichester, not far from Chilgrove. Sydney died in the final quarter of 1918 with his death recorded at Hartley Wintley.

**15 October 1917 "HQ NZEF - Awded the Military Medal for acts of gallantry - NZEF Ordrs List 53 (49.424)**

VINE, S.J.

15/92

M.M. Sergeant, Field Artillery, L.G. 17 Dec 1917, p 13201 [Rec 1449, 15th Battery, 1st Brigade]

For gallant conduct. When word was received at the Battery that the F.O.O. (Lieutenant Bridgeman) was lying wounded in a shell hole forward, this N.C.O. and another immediately got out and after a long search under heavy fire, found him and brought him safely back to a Dressing Station.

This was during the course of the Ypres offensive and the [Battle of Passchendaele](#).



Under the head "Honours & Awards" Wellington's daily newspaper *The Evening Post* Volume XCVI, Issue 36, 10 August 1918, Page 10 records: "*At the Royal Investiture by the King at Aldershot last week the following New Zealanders received their decorations:- ...MM ... Sgt S Vine, all NZFA.*"

The King was at that time [George V](#).

By researching the Service Record of Lieutenant Guy Clive Bridgeman MC I have determined that most probably this incident occurred on 29 September 1917 when Lieutenant Bridgeman was "Wounded in action".

The battle scene is well described in *The History of the New Zealand Artillery* - p181 which records: *On 10 October 15th Battery was in the vicinity of St Julien:*

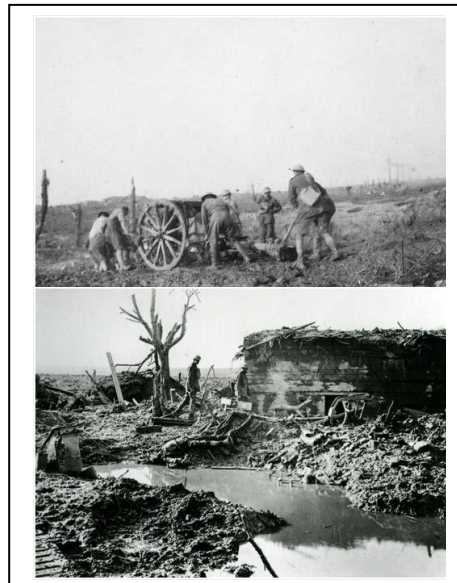
*It took 5 hours of daylight on the 10th to bring forward a single gun of the 1st Battery and another of the 13th. In the afternoon 2 howitzers of the 15th were bogged beyond St Julien and the teams and men trying to extricate them were subjected to heavy shelling."*

*Very heavy casualties had been suffered by both Brigades of Infantry which took part in the attack; the losses in killed and wounded numbered 2730.*

*Communications were utterly disorganised, the greatest difficulty was experienced in getting rations and water to men in the forward areas and the condition of the wounded was pitiable in the extreme. Many lay all night in the mud, exposed to the hail and rain and the bitter cold. On the night of the 12th-13th 1,200 men of the 4th Infantry Brigade and every spare man from the Artillery and the Army Service Corps were engaged in getting out the wounded, a battalion of the 147th Brigade having also been loaned to the Division for the same purpose. Six or eight men were required to carry a wounded man on a stretcher over that veritable morass and it took hours for each party to flounder down to the dressing stations."*

The Encyclopedia of New Zealand records that:

The New Zealand Division took part in two major actions at Passchendaele, in Belgium, in October 1917. The first, on 4 October, was comparatively successful. However, on 12 October there had been heavy rain. The artillery, shown in the top image, were handicapped by the mud and did not succeed in destroying the German barbed wire. As the New Zealanders moved forward in the mud they encountered undamaged German pillboxes (defensive bunkers), shown in the bottom image, which allowed the defenders to mow down the advancing troops. In all, 845 New Zealand soldiers died in several hours of disastrous fighting.



The village of Passchendaele was finally captured on 6th November 1917 some days after the New Zealand batteries had been relieved.

My search for relatives<sup>10</sup> of Second Lieutenant Bridgeman opened with the discovery of his burial site in the Servicemen's section at the Featherston Cemetery, and to my delight I am in communication with a nephew, David who resides near Otaki, and coincidentally has a son serving at Trentham Military Camp where my wife was employed for close on 30 years.

In my first communication with nephew David he told me of his impression that Sydney was the "rescued" rather than as I understood the "rescuer". However reading the citation for the Award of the Military Cross to Lieutenant Bridgeman reveals that it relates to another incident:

Military Cross (MC)

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<b>Award Circumstances:</b>	London Gazette, 1 January 1918, p53, Rec No 1248: February 26th to September 20th 1917. An exceptionally plucky young officer. He has done very good work as Forward Observation Officer at different times. He was F.O.O for his battery at Messines and established an Observation Post well forward when the infantry reached their final objective. During a counter attack the enemy put down a barrage which wounded one of his two telephonists, and, under fire, 2nd Lieutenant Bridgeman dressed the mans wounds and carried him back to a dressing station.
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Finally on 22 November, 1918 with the Great War over, Sydney left Belgium and *"Marched out to England - NZ Field Artillery Depot, Aldershot"*

30 December 1918 he *"Marched out to NZ Disc Depot Torquay"* embarked for New Zealand on the Remuera with his family, at that time, wife Winifride, and sons William John (Jack) and Thomas Alfred Noel (Tan or Noel) who had been born at Hartley Wintney on 18 December 1918

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<sup>10</sup> In February 2014 I was delighted to receive an email from Tim Neill Harrow of London, England, a cousin of Lt. Bridgeman.

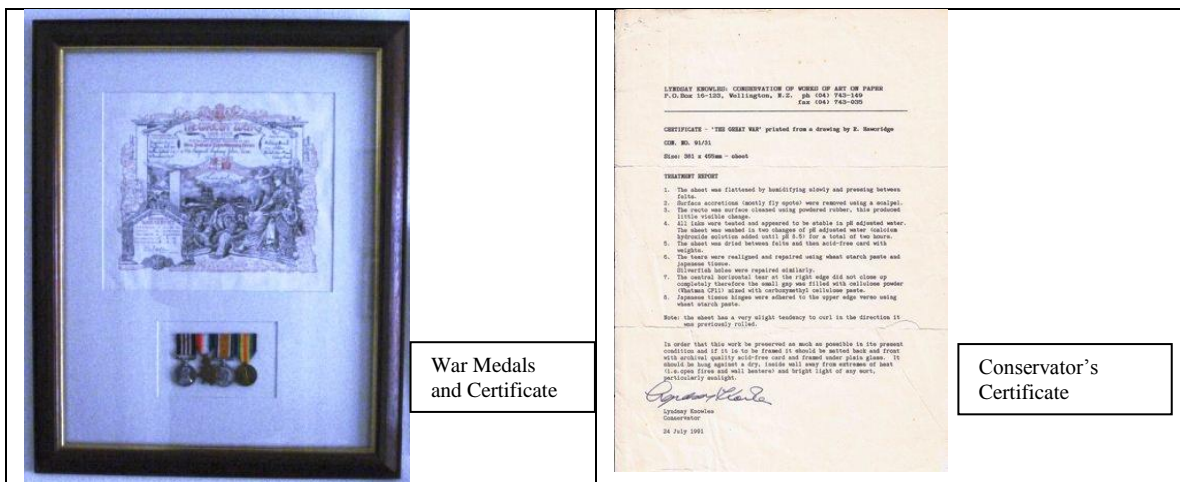
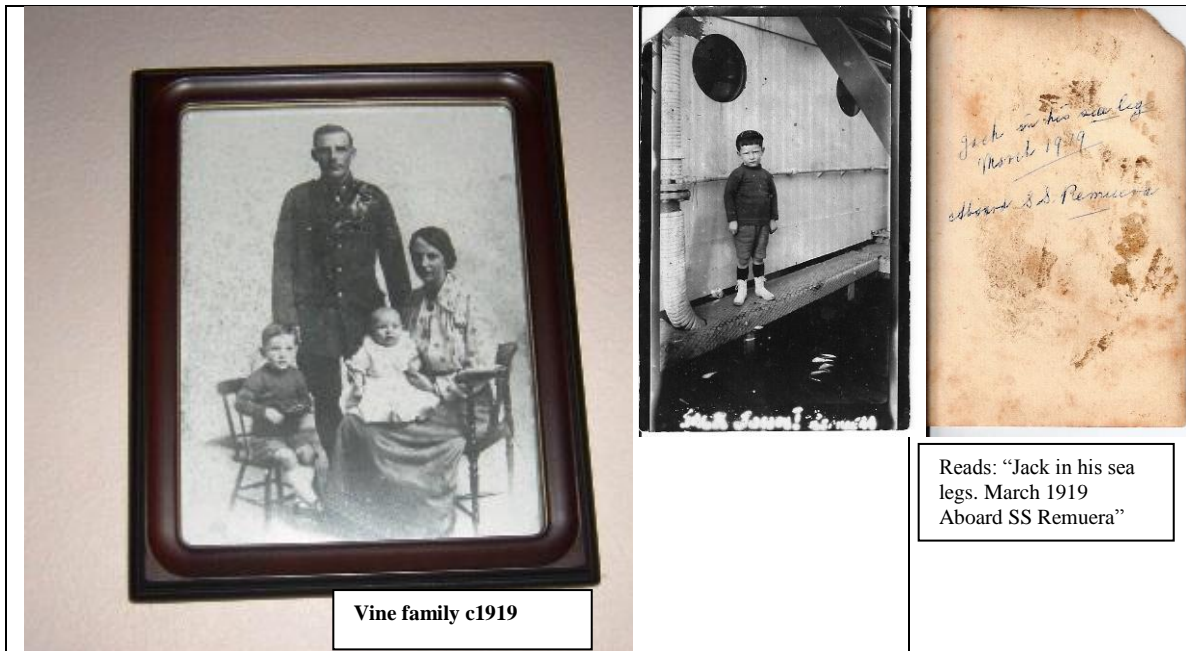
"So it seems that your grandfather saved my cousins life in Ypres, amazing that in the ocean of stories from the War, most forgotten or buried in records (or destroyed in the Blitz), these two stories cross paths. I am sure you are full aware of how difficult it can be to trace such things beyond vague action reports and war grave records, so it is pretty amazing to suddenly find your article and the information within.

I have attached a photo from the Library of New Zealand of Guy, taken during the Gallipoli campaign where he served for 5 months before being shot through the lung by a sniper. The photo was taken immediately after by an unknown photographer as he was carried from the front lines by stretcher bearers... again a pretty stunning find beyond the usual portrait photos we see on family walls. After he recovered from this first injury he was transferred to the Field Artillery where I suppose he met your grandfather, was commissioned, earned the MC you mentioned in your article, and was cut down by machine gun fire on the fateful day your grandfather saved his life.

It is also interesting, and very sad to note, that like your grandfather, Guy succumbed to influenza, and only 3 days before the armistice was signed... he was back in NZ helping to train his new unit to return to the front a third time... they were really a different breed back then weren't they?

Anyhow, I have visited the battlegrounds of France and Belgium a few years ago when I finished Uni, with the main objective being to be the first in my family to visit the grave of my great grandfather Lt. Col. Robert F. Ingham DSO, Royal Garrison Artillery, who also fought in the Somme and Ypres, and died of his wounds. It was a wonderful, sobering, and very emotional experience to walk the land, and pay my respects to my forefather and all the other young men who fell long before their time. I have been trying to piece together more of a picture of Bob's life in the war for a long time now but keep hitting walls, and thought you might have some good tips on researching such things.

But I also just wanted to reach out to you as such connections are rare and getting more so as every year passes. "



The family disembarked in New Zealand on 5 April 1919 with Sydney obtaining his discharge on 2 June.

Further additions to the family were Patricia Drayson born 2 April 1920, Geoffrey William 18 October 1921 and 7 months after her father's death, Eileen Winifred on 6 February 1923.

Sydney's parents' Harry and Annie, nee Crumpler, deaths followed later, respectively 26 February, 1931, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex (our Father's birthplace) and 27 October 1924, 2 Upper Shoreham Road, Kingston by Sea, Shoreham by Sea. This was possibly the address of Sydney's sister Ethel Lilian Smith. Further research is required to confirm this fact.

The above chronicles events in the short life, 35 years, of my Grandfather, Sydney John Vine.

Whilst he amazingly survived the Great War he died soon after its conclusion. He was taken on 12 July 1922 at Wellington Hospital, at the tail-end of the Influenza Epidemic as a result of weakened lungs sustained on the Front in France, "*Death due to War Service*".

All this leaves several unanswered questions including the possibility that Sydney enlisted as an ANZAC with the objective of reuniting with, and marrying the mother of his first born back in England, departing significantly from the quest for adventure that motivated many other of his colleagues to join the campaign.

His death shortly after repatriation to New Zealand, and unique burial in the Church of England section at Karori, with a Serviceman's headstone, bears the possible conclusion that his wife of 7 short years commendably wished to acknowledge both his English heritage and his military service as an ANZAC.

Here was an ANZAC with a difference.

Lower Hutt, New Zealand, October 2010

