

# Stories from the Honour Boards

Stories of those who served and are remembered on the Honour Boards in the Merrington Anzac Memorial Peace Chapel at Saint Andrew's Uniting Church

Booklet Number 20

# **ARTHUR CYRIL CARVOSSO 1893-1983**



This booklet remains the property of Saint Andrew's Uniting Church.  
Please see a Guide if you would like a copy.

©Saint Andrew's Uniting Church  
Corner Ann and Creek Streets  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
2014

## Corporal Arthur Cyril Carvosso

Arthur Cyril Carvosso was born in Brisbane on 30 December 1893, second son of William Henry Carvosso and Eliza Ann Carvosso (née Adams). His parents were prominent Brisbane residents: his father served as Supreme Court Sherriff of Queensland, was a renowned cricketer and cricket umpire for interstate matches and Deacon at Wharf Street Congregational Church while Mrs Carvosso, a tireless voluntary worker in a number of organisations, was president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union for over 30 years. Their home was in Arthur Street, New Farm. Cyril attended Brisbane Grammar School from 1909 to 1911 and joined the company of Chas Sankey Fraser in 1912. In 1916 he completed examinations with honours to become an optometrist.

Cyril Carvosso enlisted in Brisbane for AIF service abroad on 22 February 1916 and was given service number 2279. As Acting Sergeant, 52<sup>nd</sup> Battalion reinforcements, he embarked on HMAT *Boorara* from Brisbane in August 1916.



***HMAT A42 Boorara at Port Melbourne on 10 May 1917***

*The HMAT A42 Boorara weighed 5,923 tons with an average cruise speed of 10.5 knots or 19.44 kmph. The Boorara was previously a captured German vessel called Pfalz. It was manned by Australia officers and crew and transferred to Commonwealth Government Line, 24 June 1919.*

He was engaged on battlefields on the Western Front at Bapaume, Amiens, Villers-Bretonneux and Etinehem till fighting ceased in November 1918.

He spent periods of time in hospital during these months, suffering wounding of his hand while in action and 'trench feet', a condition caused by prolonged exposure of the feet to the damp, unsanitary, and cold conditions in the muddy war trenches of France.

*On the back of this photo, Mr Carvosso wrote, "Not much like me, but it shows the hospital garb."*



After the war, having been appointed to the rank of Corporal, Cyril Carvosso studied at the British Optical Institute, London, gaining the Fellowship of the British Optical Association and the Freemanship of the Spectacle Makers Guild, and becoming a Freeman of the City of London. Corporal Carvosso returned to Australia per the *Friedrichsrub* in 1919 carrying Australian troops home. The ship also carried the then Prime Minister Mr Hughes and the Minister for the Navy, Sir Joseph Cook. He was discharged from military duties on 5 May 1920.

Mr Carvosso resumed his career as an optometrist, being manager of branches of Chas Sankey Fraser in Brisbane and Toowoomba for the next nine years. He married Florence Edna Mundell of Taroom at the Presbyterian Church, Dalby, on St David's Day 1926.

From 1929 to 1932, he had charge of the optical department of FA Newman's Pty Ltd, Collins Street, Melbourne. He next moved to the Queensland town of Gympie where he owned his own business in Mary Street.

Daughters Helen and Janette were born in Melbourne and Gympie respectively. One of Cyril's interests was astronomy. He lived at The Gap in retirement and died, aged 89 years, in 1983.

### **Select Bibliography**

*The Courier-Mail*, 9 August 1940

*The Brisbane Courier*, 5 Aug 1924, 5 March 1926, 23 February 1932, 3 Sept 1932

National Archives of Australia, military records, World War 1

Brisbane Grammar School Archives, *The Golden Book*

*Gympie Times*, 2 February 1933

*Western Star*, Roma, 21 May 1924

*Brisbane Grammar School Magazine*, Vol XXIII, Nov 1920, No 62,  
page 52

*The Queenslander*, 13 March 1926

Mrs Helen Wagner, Bridgeman Downs, family records

*Year Books*, Wharf Street Congregational Church, Brisbane,  
1909 – 1920

Compiled by Noel Adsett, September 2014



*Places in the Somme in France near where Cyril Carvosso was fighting*





*Lest we forget*