

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 162

CECIL ALBERT HENDREN 1885 - 1954



Albert Railway Bridge, Indooroopilly, c1911

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

Cover Illustration: *Cecil Hendren spent his childhood and much of his adult life in Indooroopilly.*

The Albert Railway Bridge crossed the Brisbane River at Indooroopilly. It was built in 1895.

©Saint Andrew's Uniting Church
Corner Ann and Creek Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000
2017

Sergeant Cecil Albert Hendren

The second son of Samuel James Hendren (1856 – 1921) and Sarah Jane née Butcher (1863 – 1950), Cecil Albert Hendren was born in Rockhampton on 22 December 1885. Cecil's three brothers were also born in Rockhampton where their father Samuel was the paymaster of the Central Railway.



*Railway Station
Rockhampton
c1889*

Two of Cecil's brothers died in their childhood years. Continuing his career in the Queensland Railway Department, Mr Samuel Hendren moved with his wife and surviving sons to Chelmer as traffic superintendent and later to Indooroopilly as comptroller of stores in the Southern Division.

Cecil attended Indooroopilly State School. Like his father he followed a career in the Railway Department starting as a clerk in the Locomotive Engineer's Office in Brisbane. He also served in Citizen Military Force units in Brisbane including the Australian Intelligence Corps for one year and home service for a year and a half before enlisting on 1 August 1917 to serve overseas in the Australian Imperial Force. Then a single man, aged 31 years 7 months, Cecil Hendren was appointed to No 6 Sea Transport Australian Medical Corps.

Sea Transport Staff were the personnel assigned to run the ships carrying reinforcements to the Middle East and Europe, and to transport the seriously wounded or ill soldiers back to Australia. These sea transport sections had been running from July 1915. They allowed transport ships to return casualties instead of having to carry them on hospital ships. Each section made several voyages, staying in England for a few days to a few weeks before making another voyage, usually from the same port but on a different ship. A section consisted of a medical practitioner, a matron, two nursing sisters, four staff nurses, a masseuse (staff sergeant), a quarter master sergeant (staff sergeant), a pharmacist (staff sergeant, later a lieutenant), a sergeant, a corporal and three to eight orderlies who were privates.



Australian War Memorial

PB0100

Troops boarding HMAT Anchises

No 6 Sea Transport Section, one of seven sea transport sections, made four embarkations as follows:

From Sydney, New South Wales on board HMAT A68 *Anchises* on 8 August 1917

From Melbourne, Victoria on board HMAT A72 *Beltana* on 19 January 1918

From Sydney, New South Wales on board HMAT A30 *Borda* on 17 July 1918

From Melbourne, Victoria on board HMAT A32 *Themistocles* on 5 March 1919

On these voyages, Cecil Hendren was the staff sergeant and on his return to Australia on board Hospital Transport *Durham Castle* on 21 July 1919 the ship's roll shows him as sergeant on the nursing staff. He was discharged from the AIF on 22 August 1919 and received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal for his services.

Cecil returned to his parents' home, Norceskenfell, Station Road, Indooroopilly and resumed his clerical duties at the railway audit office in Roma Street. His father died in 1921. Cecil and his mother continued to live there. On Easter Saturday 16 April 1927, Cecil Albert Hendren married Miss Delsie Shenton, elder daughter of Rev and Mrs W Shenton at North Ipswich Methodist Church where the bride's father was the minister. Rev William Shenton officiated at the wedding ceremony, assisted by Rev Charles Yuill, then minister at Hamilton Presbyterian Church in Brisbane. The couple holidayed in North Queensland before settling at Norceskenfell in Indooroopilly for the rest of Cecil's life.

Cecil and Delsie's only son was born at Norceskenfell on 1 February 1928. They named him Kenneth Shenton.

Cecil accepted office in the Indooroopilly Progress Association. He served as vice-president in 1937. In 1939 when he was assistant honorary secretary and treasurer, the association expressed satisfaction that a new police station in Coonan Road was nearing completion and that the traffic department had given attention to complaints of speeding by traffic in the district particularly near the state school.



In the preparations to celebrate the golden jubilee of Indooroopilly State School in 1939, Cecil Hendren was a member of the old scholars' representatives' committee. One of its objectives, apart from the historic and social aspects, was the raising of sufficient funds to purchase a picture projector, a modern radio combination set and other equipment for the school.

Cecil's mother continued to live at Station Road till her death at the age of 87 in 1950. Cecil died at the Brisbane General Hospital on 15 August 1954 and his private cremation service was held the next day in the Chapel at Mt Thompson.

References

Ancestry on line

Australian Electoral Rolls, 1905 – 1954

Australian War Memorial, embarkations rolls and unit histories

National Archives of Australia, military records, World War 1

Queensland Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Queensland Government Gazette, 30 June 1908

Queensland Government Gazette, 30 June 1910

Morning Bulletin, 11 Nov 1886, page 3

Brisbane Courier, 25 October 1921, page 6

Queensland Times, 20 April 1926, page 4

Brisbane Courier, 9 April 1927, page 20

Brisbane Courier, 16 April 1927, page 24

Brisbane Courier, 20 April 1927, page 20

Brisbane Courier, 2 May 1927, page 18

Brisbane Courier, 15 February 1928, page 14

Queensland Times, 4 April 1931, page 7

Queensland Times, 21 January 1933, page 6

Courier-Mail, 6 February 1937, page 10

Telegraph, 20 January 1939, page 9

Queensland Times, 7 October 1939, page 2

Telegraph, 7 December 1939, page 11

Queensland Times, 3 April 1944, page 2

Courier-Mail, 16 August 1954, page 16

Queensland Times, 17 August 1954, page 8

Compiled by Noel E Adsett

Brisbane

January 2017



Lest we forget