

Extract from "White over Green", History of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion with reference to the 4th battalion.

"There is one personality who must be mentioned in the chronicles of this valiant unit. He is Padre William McKenzie, M.C., O.B.E. or "Fighting Mac" as he was known affectionately throughout the 4th battalion. He was a legend & a byword; not just in the battalion but throughout the A.I.F.....With the outbreak of war, he was appointed chaplain to the 1st Brigade & sailed with the 4th battalion.....His understanding of the troops & his inviolable standards soon won for him the respect & admiration of all ranks.

Then came Gallipoli and it was here that he made history. Fearless, devoted, helpful and brave: he was all this and more, and his work at Lone Pine & Shrapnel Gully earned him the undying love of all the battalion. It also earned him the Military Cross, rarely awarded to a non-combatant chaplain. But Mac,.....was no "non-combatant"!etc.

He was, in the modern idiom "a mighty man."!

Evidently an extract from a
post-war book - title & journalist??

Possibly "The Army that went
with the Boys." (U.S. Marines comments)
- Dawson

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'Fighting Mac's' Farewell

I HAD the good fortune to be present at the farewell parade of an Australian infantry battalion held in honour of 'Fighting Mac' before he left the front to return home. The scene was arresting. As a rule, men below the rank of General leave their battalions quietly. A few friends bid them farewell, and then they are gone. This particular Australian battalion had never, so far as I could learn, in all its three years of arduous fighting held a parade in honour of a man who was called away. But this occasion was a very uncommon one. Officers and men alike felt that they must mark it in a special way.

And so in a field in a valley, somewhere behind the lines in France, the thin and battleworn companies marched up. The band came on with a swing, and when the troops were in their places the acting Brigadier-General, speaking from horseback, in the middle of his men, told them how they had all felt. They could not let Major McKenzie leave them without publicly acknowledging his work among them. The Brigadier went on in

Attached to The Salvation Army section at Boulogne there is one of the finest Brass Bands in existence in France, composed of Salvationists. Of its twenty-four instrumentalists, twelve have been bandmasters or musical leaders. In the summer before my visit this Band had played, Sunday after Sunday, to crowds fluctuating between 600 and 10,000 people on the Esplanade band-stand at the base. They play at most of the hospitals in the district. At Christmas-time they played carols to no fewer than 30,000 wounded men, an unequalled record.

Character tells. The character of these ambulance men counts for much. It has told so much that the British Red Cross has for some time been continually urging on The Salvation Army to extend its ambulance units, to provide more cars, and above all, more men. This is not an easy thing; the money here is the least difficulty. Money usually is the least difficult side of a good work. Employ sufficient energy to make your work known to people, and if it is work of the right kind the money will come. But to find the right type of man at a time when every branch of the work is calling for men, is the real problem. General Bramwell Booth has, however, on the instant, resolved to do as the British Red Cross wishes. He will find the men. It is up to the public to find him the money.

straight soldierlike speech, without any attempt at flowers of oratory, to remind them of what they all knew, how Major McKenzie had been with them from the first ; how he had shared their experiences in battle after battle, from Egypt to Gallipoli, from Gallipoli to France, right up to now ; how he had helped them in all sorts of ways ; how he had been a centre of their life and one of themselves. Then he shook hands with The Salvation Army *padre*, in the name of his men, and the Major himself stepped forward. William McKenzie is a physical giant. He has a mouth that recalls Theodore Roosevelt, and a manner as emphatic and as determined as that of the American ex-President. He had narrowly escaped missing this Farewell Service, for not many days before when up at the fighting front a shell had burst near him and made him unconscious for many hours.

I am not going to attempt to reproduce his speech. It was just what one would expect a man to say, talking to old comrades with whom he had gone through great things. 'I am sorry to leave you,' he said. 'I set out with you from Australia ; I hoped to be with you to the end, to the day of final victory. But we have to obey our orders, and my orders are that I have to return to work in Australia.' And then, while the band was playing, he went around the lines, shaking hands with every man.

Who is 'Fighting Mac,' and why should he be thus honoured ? Major William McKenzie was one of The Salvation Army Chaplains attached to the British Army. There have been three with the Australians, two with the New Zealanders, and two with the Canadians. They are fully appointed Chaplains, working under the immediate direction of the Chaplain-General of the Forces. I first heard of William McKenzie in the days when the Australian troops returned to London from Gallipoli. 'We had a Salvation Army Chaplain with us,' one hard-bitten Australian trooper told me. 'My! He was a big, burly fellow, and without a bit of nonsense in him! Some of the stunts he did would make the hair stand on your head. One day at Gallipoli we had to storm the stiffest part of the Turkish trenches; it was the worst bit of the whole show, and "Mac" declared he was going with us. "Boys," he said, "I've preached to you and I've prayed with you, and do you think I'm afraid to die with you? I'd be ashamed of myself to funk it when you are up against it here." And he came along with us right in the front line. He had nothing but a little stick with him, and he came out of the fight without a scratch. He had a bandanna handkerchief on his head to keep the sun off. The handkerchief was riddled with shrapnel and he hadn't a scratch. He was a man!'

'Do you remember what he said to us when we got through?' said another. 'He said, "Boys, I know why you kept up close after me when I rushed up that time. It was because I had your pay in my belt, and you were afraid you might lose it."' And the Australian guffawed at the joke.

William McKenzie is one of the new type of *padres*. He knows more about fighting than anyone in the battalion. Soldiers told me in France that when he gave his verdict in the officers' mess on any technical point in dispute, from the trajectory of shells to the right height of a parados, that settled it. Major McKenzie proved his unconventionality when the Australians first went to Egypt. Here the troopers were robbed, and many of them wrecked in a number of Cairo dens. It seemed that nothing could be done effectively, owing to the peculiar conditions of Cairo administration, to prevent this. One night the Australians rose in a body and wiped a number of those dens out of existence. Of course, it would be too terrible to suggest that a Chaplain had any hand in such a lawless proceeding! But when I have talked with the boys over that night, and have asked how it came about, I have heard more than once, 'Well, you see, Bill McKenzie got talking to us . . . and . . .!'

At Gallipoli he won his title as hero. His first task was to

FIGHTING MAC'S' FAREWELL

bury the body of his Colonel who had fallen shortly after the troops landed; to bury him while the bullets were whistling over his head by the hundred and while shells were dropping all around. Here comforting the dying, helping the wounded, performing the last rites over the dead, aiding as best he could to assuage the misery caused by the heat, the flies, disease, and thirst, he won the confidence of every soldier, confidence which he more than retained in the subsequent glorious fighting of the Australians in France and Flanders. He has probably had more narrow escapes than any other man in the war. He seemed to bear a charmed life, and showed himself a supreme example of the warrior minister of God.

The other Salvation Army Chaplains have also done work that has won the confidence and goodwill of all ranks of the army. I have been with them in huts in England and in France. I have seen how sanely and practically they do their task. Army Chaplains of all Churches have the most wonderful opportunity of service ever presented to man. So far as my experience has gone, those at the front have risen to the occasion. The Salvation Army is now gladly going to take the opportunity, which has only been given it since I was last in France, of sending out more men of the type of 'Fighting Mac' to serve its own people in the ranks,

S. J. J.

THE CAMERA BEAT HIM

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and to serve the King's Army in general—send them out not to proselytize, but to help. Frankly, I find it difficult to understand the red tape regulations which for a time hindered such an extension of the work. Men such as these add a spirit and a tone to the brigades they serve.

' FIGHTING MAC'S ' FAREWELL

the forward movement of the New Zealanders at that point would be repulsed. Just then Cockerell rallied the battalion and went on accompanied by a corporal and a few men. The men were knocked out, and Lieutenant Cockerell and the corporal continued alone. The pair of them took two German 'pill boxes' and

To: All Members of the Gallipoli Assc. and those interested in the Sunderland Polytechnic research into personal experience in 1914-18 with particular reference to the Gallipoli Campaign.

I would like to keep the many 1914-18 men who have helped this research fully informed of the progress which has been made together with the plans for publications.

At the Polytechnic I have carefully accessed under a systematic subdivision of Fronts, the original letters, diaries, photographs, maps, private papers relating to personal experience on the Western Front, Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, Salonika, Egypt, Palestine, Italy, Russia, East Africa, at Tsing Tau, and with Dunsterforce, in the Navy, RFC, and on the Domestic Front. In addition to the original documentation, there are manuscript and typescript files of recollections covering every Front, over a thousand taperecordings similarly indexed and cross referenced, a considerable library of books on 1914-18, original newspapers and trench newsheets together with a large collection of fascinating souvenir objects relating to 1914-18.

To use Gallipoli as an example, a man's letters, diaries and various papers are kept in a file marked Gallipoli - Army or Navy, name, rank and contents of folder together with a note as to whether he has 1916-18 diaries filed under his name among for example, the Egypt/Palestine Front papers. The simplest example I can quote for the value of this cross referencing except of course for its essential usefulness for our research is that when we get our regular visits from veterans or the families of veterans I only need to know the name of the man and the Front on which he served and I can immediately make available his original papers, his manuscript recollections, letters to me, his tapes or if appropriate the equipment he sent. Furthermore, in close proximity to each of these items will be placed related documents from men the veterans might well have known or men who served in the same engagements on the same Fronts.

The system by which everything is accessed makes it important that final permanent preservation must be maintained along the same lines. There is at this moment proper provision for preservation of all the material in the event of something untoward happening to me. The most appropriate place in the event of this happening would be the Imperial War Museum but I am hoping to secure a legally binding transfer which would ensure that there would be no dispersal or inappropriate re-arrangement and this would be something for negotiation not exclusively with the Imperial War Museum but perhaps with a good County Records Office, a Regimental Museum or a University Library.

Please Turn Over

Publication. As well as the continued responsible use of the Archives by good research students and the supervised use of them to aid 1914-18 work in schools, two publications should appear next year. The first is designed for Educational use but I am sure will be of great interest to veterans. It is a series of folders some 48 pages long, some 32 which cover separate aspects of the war to show the detailed impact of the war on the individual from his diaries, letters, photographs and recollections. There is, of course, a booklet on Gallipoli which tells the story from executive level as well as from the level of the ordinary soldier. Together with these folders there will be maps, newspapers, tape recorded recollections and other items but I am negotiating with the Publishers (Longmans, Allen Lane) for the quicker and individual publication of the folders so that veterans can obtain that which clearly will interest them more than the Educational elements in the full unit. I think I shall be successful in this negotiation. The work for this publication is with the publishers.

Secondly, I am engaged on work to produce a thesis on Gallipoli which will also be published by Longmans, Allen Lane. The date for the submission of the completed thesis will be spring next year so that all being well publication should be before the end of the year. The work is introduced by a consideration of the Gallipoli conception and then concentrates on recreating the Gallipoli experience of the ordinary soldier and sailor together with his young officer by using original papers and recollections. The source material for this comes from several hundred British and Commonwealth veterans, considerable numbers of French, some Turks and a small number of Germans. The work will be concluded by an examination of the Naval and Military leadership. The Bibliography and related sources already lists every veteran who helped and will specify the nature of the aid. Progress on this work is going well with 19,000 words covering the chase of the Goeben the "B.11" sinking the Messudieh, the loss of the French submarine Saphir, the February bombardments and the February/March demolition party landings.

Having been to Turkey and three times to France I am hoping to complete the thesis and book by working with Australian and New Zealand veterans and in their Record Offices in May and June of this year. I shall soon know whether the Nuffield Foundation and the British Academy will enable me to make this journey which will cost £900. A Trust in Sunderland has offered me £100 and it may be that the Polytechnic will give me some aid. If Members or indeed any veterans reading this feel they can help with original documents, photos., recollections, books or equipment will you please be kind enough to get in touch with me as soon as possible.

February 1974

|| P.H. Liddle, 10 The Precinct, Tunstall Hill, Sunderland, Co. Durham ENGLAND.
 Senior Lecturer in History, Sunderland Polytechnic, Chester Rd., Sunderland
 Co. Durham.

I passed certain pages of letters from Wm McKenzie (4th Battalion) (P.M.I.F.)
 over to P.H. Liddle.

- ① Before Anzac Day. 20/4/15. - 4 pages
- ② After Anzac Day. 29/4/15. 2 sides of leaf (i.e. 2 pages)
- ③ After home Run. ^{44/5/15.} 26/5/15. - 1 page.
- ④ Gallipoli Peninsula Turkey. - 2 pages.
- ⑤ 5/2/15. 4 pages.

FR 84/150

H. Mortimer (née McKenzie)

TEMPORARY RECEIPT

RECEIVED FROM:

DATE / /

Name: Mrs. Jean Newall

Address: 179 Mand Street

Armidale 2350 Tel: 067 72 5589

THE OBJECTS LISTED BELOW FOR THE PURPOSE INDICATED:

LOAN GIFT PURCHASE EXAMINATION OTHER

per:

Medals awarded to Comm. William McKenzie

Order of the British Empire

Military Cross

Gallipoli Star

Victory Medal 1919

Peace Medal 1918

Jubilee Medal George V 1935

Coronation Medal George VI 1937

Order of the Founder, Salvation Army

Long Service, Salvation Army

Appreciation Award, Gordolea

Salvation Army Award for Service in Great War

Army insignia, Lt. Colonel

Archivist,
Salvation Army
Training College
120 Kingsland Rd.
Bexley North, N.S.W.

179 Mann Street
Armidale 2350
July 26 1983

Dear Mrs. Lucas

After further discussions with members of the family on the matter of my grandfather's medals, we have decided that it would be better if we were to loan them, rather than to make an outright gift. It is unlikely that any of us would ever wish to remove them from the display, but we think it wise to keep that option. I hope this will not inconvenience you. Would it also be possible for the accompanying card to read: "Lent by Donald McKenzie, eldest son of the Commissioner"? We would all very much appreciate this.

I hope you will be able to include other memorabilia. For instance, someone may have a spare copy of his biography, written by Adelaide Ah Kow, or a copy of the memorial address given by Brigadier, I think then Major, McIlveen, at the funeral. I remember the service, in a packed Congress Hall, and the address and testimonies, then afterwards Major McIlveen leading the cortege with the family, and the band playing "Sweeping through the gates of the New Jerusalem". We admired Major McIlveen very much, and know what a great friend he proved to be. No doubt you have already thought of these things.

My brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Tinter, who live in Sydney, and I will visit the exhibition either at the opening or as soon as possible afterwards. I am so pleased that you are setting up the Centre, and naming it in honour of one of the Army great men. Other members of the McKenzie side of the family are at present overseas or interstate, but everyone will be most interested in your new venture.

With best wishes, in fellowship,

Jean Newall

MEDALS OF COMMISSIONER WILLIAM MCKENZIE ON LOAN TO THE
SALVATION ARMY MCILVEEN ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM 1983

Order of the British Empire

Military Cross

Gallipoli Star

Victory Medal 1919

Peace Medal 1918

Jubilee Medal (George V, 1935)

Coronation Medal (George VI 1937)

Order of the Founder, Salvation Army } Presented by General Booth

Long Service, Salvation Army }

Appreciation Award, Gordolea Patriotic Society, for work among
armed forces 1914-18

S.A. award for Service in the Great War Presented by Gen. Booth

Army insignia Lt.-Colonel

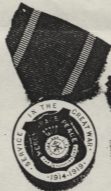
OBVERSE



Gallipoli Star



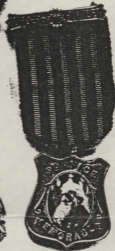
Military Cross



S.A. Service Medal
Pres. by General Booth



Appreciation Medal
Patriotic Society



Order of the Founder
General Booth 1920



George V and
Mary
1910-1935
Jubilee



Coronation
George VI and Elizabeth



General Service
1914-1918



General Service
Victory Medal
1919

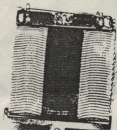


O.B.E.

REVERSE



Gallipoli Star



Military Cross



SA Service Medal
awarded by General Booth



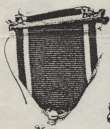
Appreciation
Gardena
Patriotic
Society



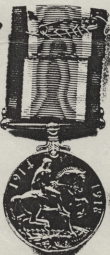
Order of the
Founder 1920



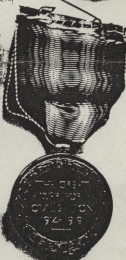
George V and Mary
1910 - 1935



Coronation
George VI and Elizabeth



General Service



General Service



O.B.E.

HOP
IN



YOU'RE WELCOME

McILVEEN ARCHIVES
AND
MUSEUM CENTRE

120 KINGSLAND RD BEXLEY NORTH

MUSEUM OPEN:

MONDAY: 9 A.M. - 3.30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY: 9 A.M. - 3.30 P.M.
FRIDAY: 9 A.M. - 12.30 P.M.

The Museum will be displayed in three eras:

1. 1883 - 1914
2. 1914 - 1944
3. 1944 - 1965

The era displayed at the present time is the second era 1914 - 1944, taking in the II World Wars and includes General Carpenter, Brig. Sir Arthur McIlveen and Commissioner W. McKenzie.

PR54/150(11)
Australian
War Memorial

Officially opened September, 1983

M'ILVEEN ARCHIVES
AND
MUSEUM CENTRE

*contains W^m McKenzie's M.C.
Distinguished medals.*



A Salvation Army Museum

And Research Centre For

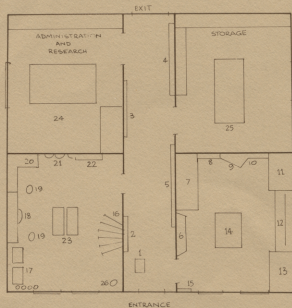
The Australia Eastern Territory

This Museum has been opened so that the wonderful heritage of The Salvation Army in the Australia Eastern Territory may be preserved and enjoyed by all.

Over the last century many courageous and determined men and women have played their part within the ranks of The Salvation Army to make it the 'Army' it is today.

Many changes have taken place as far as the fashions are concerned and also the update of buildings and methods of communication.

But one thing will never change and that is the Army's love for God and man.



MUSEUM CONTENTS

1. Bust of William Booth
2. The Generals
3. Painting of Sir Arthur McIlveen
4. Collage of cadets of by-gone days
5. The McIlveen Story
6. General & Mrs. George Carpenter
7. Salvation Army musicians
8. Commissioner W. McKenzie
9. War Services World War I
10. War Services World War II
11. Red Shield Services
12. General Carpenter meets King George VI
13. Brig. Sir Arthur McIlveen
14. Medals
15. Painting of Sir Arthur's Childhood Home
16. Sessions trained in S.A. Training College 1921 - 1944
17. The Life Saving Movement
18. Clock from Congress Hall
19. Old uniforms
20. Social Services
21. Salvation Army Music
22. Salvation Army Badges
23. Hats
24. Administration & Research
25. Storage Room
26. Flag presented to Commissioner McKenzie