

## SYNOPSIS

### ***Walking In Two Worlds: The WWI story of Ngarrindjeri Anzacs Cyril & Rufus Rigney \****

At the start of World War One, it was illegal for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to join Australia's armed forces, then called the Australian Imperial Force. They weren't even considered full citizens of Australia. This was the time of the 'White Australia Policy': discrimination and restrictions were rife.

But a group of young First Nations men from what became known as Point McLeay Mission (Raukkan) in the heart of Ngarrindjeri Country in South Australia, went ahead and enlisted in the war anyway. They became known as the "Ngarrindjeri Anzacs".

Twenty-one of these men went overseas to fight. At the time, five of them didn't come home. Two were brothers, Privates Cyril and Rufus Rigney. Both enlisted under age and died on the battlefields of the Western Front in Belgium. Neither of them made it to 21 nor came home to Country.

So why would these young Ngarrindjeri men want to fight for a country that didn't give them equal rights? What did it mean for these young men to die far from their families, their Country and their ancestors? And how do the stories of First Nations soldiers fit with the ideals and mythologies of the ANZAC legend?

Weaving together different voices, 7-part podcast *Walking In Two Worlds* powerfully explores the stories of the teenage Rigney brothers, Cyril and Rufus. We visit their homelands and hear from their Ngarrindjeri relatives firsthand to learn about the brothers' lives and wartime service.

We also find out about an amazing bi-cultural schools-based project called 'Connecting Spirits' which has found new ways to honour and remember these fallen soldiers. We also hear from a young historian with a particular interest in Indigenous First World War military service and the express recognition of it in Australia's ANZAC 'foundation story'.

*Walking In Two Worlds* is cinematic, moving, historic and powerful truth-telling. It's a story that begins way before World War One and European colonisation and continues long after, into present-day and future generations. This deep storytelling.

All you need do is listen...

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With superb music and atmospheric sound design, *Walking In Two Worlds: The WWI story of Ngarrindjeri Anzacs Cyril & Rufus Rigney* is presented and produced by award-winning podcast maker Megan Spencer for the Virtual War Memorial Australia. It was made possible with funding from the South Australian Department for Education.

*\*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander listeners are advised that this program also contains the voices of and references to people who have passed away. This podcast also contains concepts related to war and some depictions of war and its aftermath.*

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