

SOLDIER ON ANZAC APPEAL

Honour veterans of the past and support veterans of today

Major General Harold 'Pompey' Elliott and Ben Farinazzo

Ensuring the issues that the veteran community face gain better understanding and more awareness in Australia, is something that has been fought for by many, especially since WWI. Below are the stories of two such people who pushed for greater recognition of what veterans have gone through, Harold 'Pompey' Elliott and Ben Farinazzo.



Australian War Memorial
A0 2607

Major General Harold 'Pompey' Elliott, 15th Brigade

Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions during the Boer War, Harold 'Pompey' Elliott commanded the 7th Battalion in the fighting on Gallipoli, and then the 15th Brigade on the Western Front. Devoted to his troops and always concerned for them, he watched as his beloved brigade was virtually annihilated in the disastrous attack at Fromelles on 19 July 1916. In the hours that followed, he was seen greeting the brigade's survivors with tears streaming down his face. Elliott continued to command the brigade throughout the battles of 1917 and 1918, culminating in the counter-attack at Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April 1918, and the battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918. Elliott was a head-strong character and constantly confronted his superiors; his forcefulness was often unwise, and his claims sometimes foolhardy.

Arriving home in early 1919, Elliott returned to his pre-war occupation as a lawyer. A year later he was elected to the Senate as a representative of Victoria, was re-elected in 1925, and sought to bring greater awareness to veteran issues. However Elliott often spoke bitterly about those he blamed for withholding his higher promotion. While he was promoted to major general in 1927 in command of a militia division, for him this was too little too late. Obsessed with this sense of injustice, and feeling the strain of war service, politics, and business, his health broke down. Elliott ended his life in March 1931.



Ben Farinazzo

Ben was appointed as an Australian Army Officer and deployed on active service as part of the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) in 1999. He successfully transitioned from the military and has held various Board and executive leadership roles supporting the disadvantaged across Australia.

In recent years, Ben and his family have faced several challenges. He was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression as a result of his military service. In addition, he had a mountain bike accident and incurred multiple injuries including fracturing his neck and spine in several places.

Ben is a proud supporter of Australians who have served our nation, and through his work as one of Soldier On's ambassadors and whilst representing Australia at the 2018 Invictus Games in Sydney, he advocates for greater recognition of how current and ex service personnel and their families, have been impacted by their service experience.

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