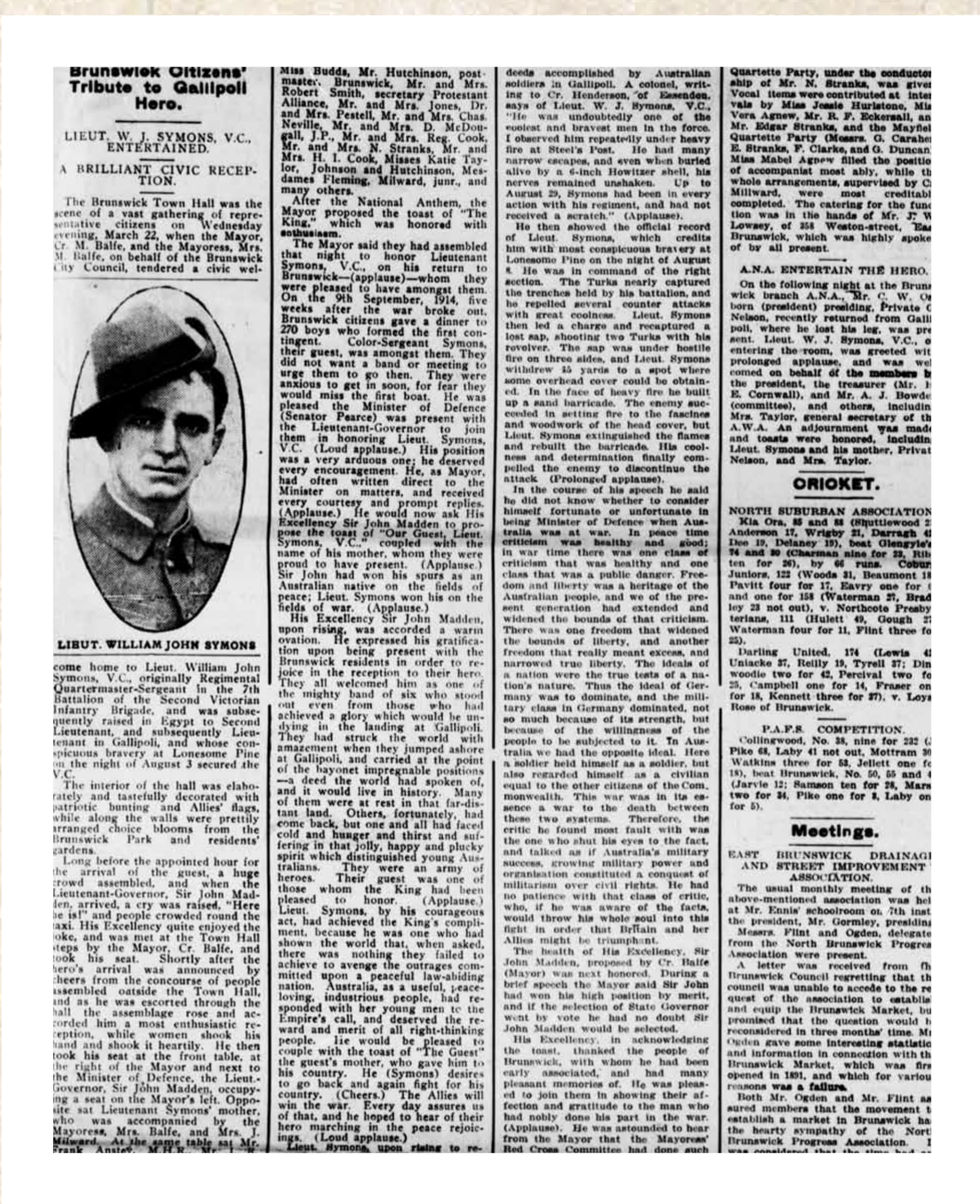
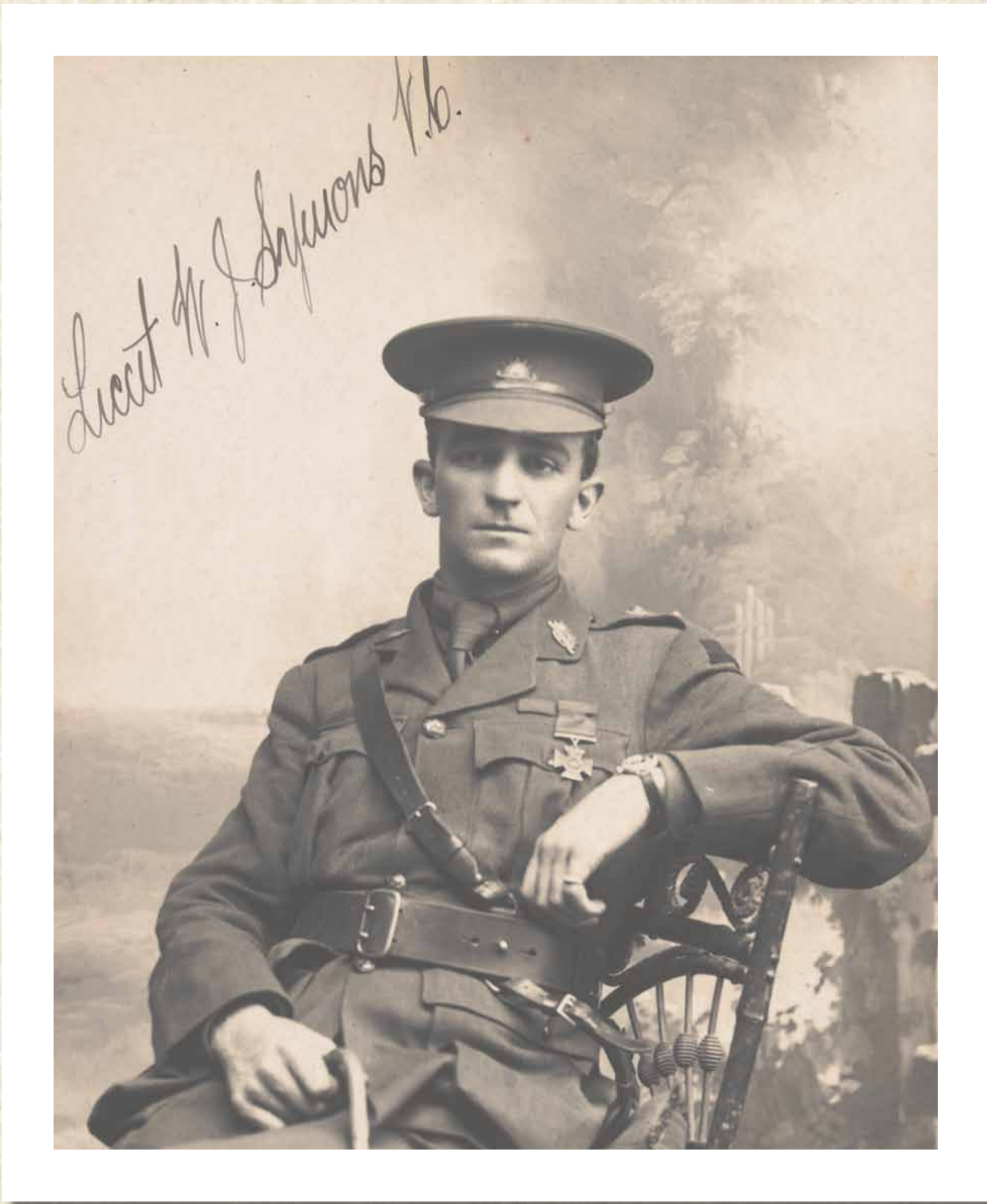


# The Gallipoli campaign and William Symons VC



1.



2.

On 25 April 1915, Australian and New Zealand (ANZAC) troops landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. This day is remembered each year as Anzac Day.

Many local soldiers were at the landing, including William John Symons (26), a grocer's assistant from 8 Burchett Street, Brunswick. At least 12 men from Coburg and 14 men from Brunswick died on the first day, including Joseph Rupert Balfe (25), the son of the then Mayor of Brunswick.

The Anzacs were sent to Gallipoli by British command to secure the Dardanelles Strait for Russian shipping, with an aim to eventually control Constantinople (Istanbul).

In August 1915, when the Turks were advancing, Symons retook an important trench under heavy fire from three directions. He then quickly built a timber barricade, protecting the trench from further attack.

He was awarded the Victoria Cross – the highest award given for 'gallantry in the face of the enemy'. Upon his return home, Brunswick held a civic service in his honour. He then returned to the Western Front. He died in London in 1945.

The Anzac troops withdrew from Gallipoli in December 1915, after the death of over 11,000 Australian and New Zealand men.

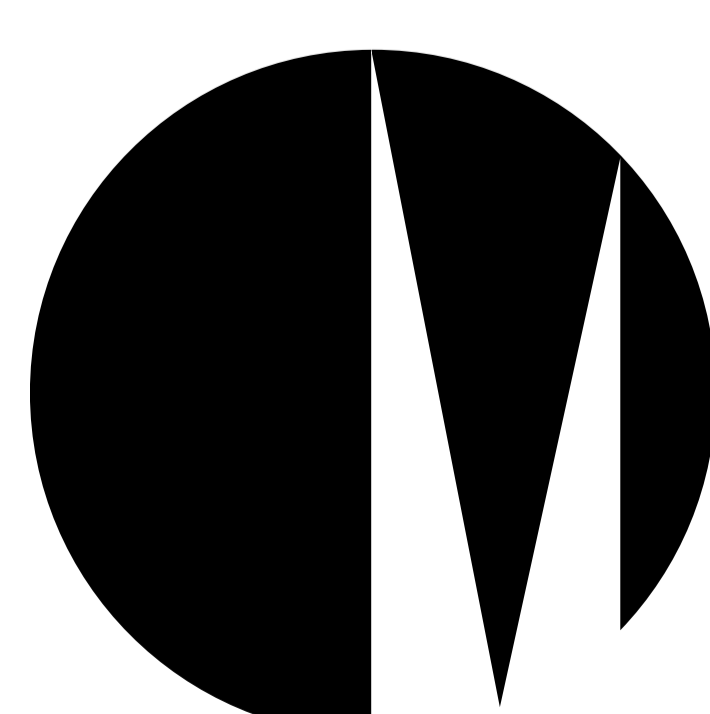


3.

## Moreland Remembers World War I



Australian Government  
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Image 1.  
Brunswick and Coburg Star, 31 March 1915  
Source: State Library of Victoria/Our Anzacs, page 60. Available Trove.

Image 2.  
Lieut. W.J. Symons, V.C. ca. 1914-1918.  
Source: State Library of Victoria, H84.427/14

Image 3.  
ANZAC Head Quarters Gully, Gallipoli. June 1915.  
Source: State Library of Victoria, H38809