

## Mundaring & Hills Historical Society Inc.

*This ANZAC Day we will remember the many military personnel who served not only in WW1 but also in ensuing wars and conflict zones. The Mundaring War Memorial contains the names of 24 men connected with the Shire of Mundaring who served and died during WW2.*



One of these men, Lieutenant Ernest William Grigg (WX2725), has a link to Darlington. In the early 1930s his parents, Ernest and Myrtle Grigg, purchased 29 Hillsden Road Darlington. In the mid-1930s Ernest, a builder, was the Glen Forrest Ward member on the Greenmount Road Board (renamed the Mundaring Road Board in 1934). The house was later rented to Hilda Giles, a widow who ran the property as a Guest House.

Ernest junior, the eldest son of the family, was born in 1917. He attended Hale School from 1932 to 1934, and then studied

architecture at UWA before joining the 2/16th Infantry Battalion on 15 May 1940. Formed in WA on the 20 April 1940, the Battalion arrived in Egypt on 25 November.

Involved in difficult actions in the Syrian campaign, the Battalion returned to Australia in early 1942. Information on the Australian War Memorial website (AWM) notes that while the troops were to disembark in Adelaide, over 350 members of the Battalion went AWOL on their brief stop-over at Fremantle – members of the WA-raised Battalion were eager to see friends and family!

By August 1942, the Battalion was fighting the Japanese on the Kokoda Trail as part of the 21st Australian Infantry Brigade. Forced to withdraw from the Trail following several fierce encounters, it was while the 2/16th was 'between actions' that Lieutenant Grigg enters the historical record. The AWM has seven photographs taken by Grigg on the 4 October 1942, at a parade of the Brigade in Sogeri, New Guinea. Grigg was the official photographer for his unit. Three weeks later, Grigg was dead – accidentally killed by a falling tree. He was 25 years old.

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### *Lest We Forget.*

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The MHHS's exhibition on Chidlow's WW2 Army Camps closes on 29 April.

If you are attending the ANZAC Service make sure you visit the museum to see this important exhibition.

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