

## World War II

While outside the scope of the initial brief of the MRU, volunteers also compiled information on service enlistees for WW II who recorded Bassendean as their home district. While these records are not comprehensive they are a starting point for future researchers and members felt the information should be recorded. A total of 209 for the Army, 4 for the Navy, and 13 for the Air Force were gathered.

A further 24 names of those who served in the local VDC are also recorded.

**Wanted for copying** - Portraits/photographs of servicemen listed on the BWM - especially those Killed in Action.

Photographs loaned for copying will be returned promptly, with a copy held in the Local Studies Collection with permission from the family.

If you have any relevant information please contact:

### Local Studies Librarian

Bassendean Memorial Library  
46 Old Perth Road, Bassendean 6054  
9279 2966  
baslib@bassendean.wa.gov.au

Access to all Service Records for men listed on the Bassendean War Memorial are available online at [Mapping Our Anzacs](http://www.bassendean.wa.gov.au/library/pages/local-studies.html). Service Records for soldiers who fought and fell and who are listed on the Bassendean War Memorial are available at this [Mapping Our Anzacs](http://www.bassendean.wa.gov.au/library/pages/local-studies.html) tribute. The Service Records are made accessible by the National Archives of Australia.  
<http://www.bassendean.wa.gov.au/library/pages/local-studies.html>



*We will  
remember  
them.*

Forms/Library/Lib signs & posters/Local  
Studs/War Memorial/2015 War Mem

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[www.bassendean.wa.gov.au/library](http://www.bassendean.wa.gov.au/library)



## The Bassendean War Memorial

The Bassendean War Memorial in the new Civic Gardens on the BIC Reserve.  
The official dedication ceremony was held on Saturday 11 April 2015.



## The Bassendean War Memorial

The Bassendean Memorial Library is named in honour of the Bassendean War Memorial which was located on the site from 1920 until its relocation in 1971.

The Memorial is inscribed with 160 names on four faces and commemorates those who serviced in World War I. The front face lists twenty eight soldiers who were killed and the remaining faces list those who served overseas and returned.

The Memorial Research Unit was formed by the Centenary Committee to identify soldiers listed on the Bassendean war memorial. The MRU identified a further 43 soldiers eligible for listing on the memorial, including a further five killed in action. These five have now been added to the front face of the memorial.

## Gallantry Awards

- **Pte** later **Sgt Aubrey Ralph Brown**, 44th Bn was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal.
- **Sgt James McKinlay**, 4th Division Signals, was awarded a Military Medal.
- **Lt (T./Capt) Hamersley** won a Military Cross.
- **Pte John Henry Mann**, later Cpl of 41st and 42nd Bns, was awarded the Military Medal and a Distinguished Conduct Medal.
- **Pte Ernest Wicks**, 12th Bn, later promoted to Lieutenant in the 51st Bn was awarded the Military Medal and then the Military Cross for bravery in the field.



*Unveiling December 1920, corner Wilson Street and Old Perth Road. Memorial relocated to corner of James Street and Old Perth Road in 1971. Town Hall in Background. (P225 Local Studies Collection)*



*View looking south-west toward St Mark's Anglican Church showing the crowd with members of the 1st Bassendean Sea Scouts Group participating in Anzac Day c1940. (P807 Local Studies Collection)*

## World War I

The war to end all wars was particularly long and brutal involving the mass use of troops, machine guns, artillery, gas, tanks and aircraft. Of the total of 203 who enlisted from the small town of West Guildford, 33 were killed (being 1 in 6).

Two thirds (130) of the total embarked with the infantry and of these 26 were killed being 20% or 1 in 5.

Representation was highest in the following infantry battalions: 11<sup>th</sup> Bn (32-9 killed), 16<sup>th</sup> Bn (24-2 killed), 28<sup>th</sup> Bn (28-10 killed) and the 44<sup>th</sup> Bn (19-1 killed).

## In Foreign Fields

The first loss was **Pte Ben Bailey**, 11<sup>th</sup> Bn, shot on the beach at Gallipoli on the morning of April 25<sup>th</sup> 1915. Three others were killed before the evacuation in December 1915. The battles in France and Belgium bore the heaviest losses with 13 killed in 1916 and another 9 in 1917.

Over the same period 2 of the 8, 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horsemen were killed in the Palestine campaign. The final year of the war cost another four lives with **Pte John Christie**, 28<sup>th</sup> Bn and **Pte William Wilson**, 1<sup>st</sup> AGH, both killed in action just six weeks before the war ended. The last to die on service was **Dvr Reginald Price**, Field Artillery, who died of injuries in February 1919 before returning home.

## Recommendations for Awards - World War I

- **Lt Ernest Alexander Charlton** was recommended for a Military Cross.
- **S/Sgt Alexander Charles Ireland** was Mentioned in Despatches.
- **S/Sgt John Beveridge Weir** was Mentioned in Despatches.