

George Svenson

George was born at Glenmore, outside Warwick in 1896. He was the fourth son of 10 children, 8 boys and 2 girls. In 1915, aged 19 years, he enlisted with the Australian Military Forces, Australian Imperial Force, with 5 of his brothers. He became a member of the Second Light Horse Regiment, his service number being 796. He served at Gallipoli where he was wounded. This resulted in blood poisoning and he was evacuated to Birmingham, England to recover. He expected to die, but a young doctor talked him into having a blood exchange (he'd never heard of such a thing) which saved his life. While in England he and several others were invited to lunch with Dame Nellie Melba and she sang for them.

On April 25th 1916 he set sail again, this time to the Sinai Desert where he joined the Camel



Corp. He remained in the Army for some time after the war ended, learned the trade and became a carpenter. He travelled all over Queensland with the Works Department and later became self-employed, working around Maleny. Towards the end of his working life he helped a friend in a sawmill. George married 3 times, his wives all pre-deceased him. He had 3 children from his first marriage, eleven grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

In 1990 he was able to attend the 75th Anniversary of the Landing at Gallipoli. This was truly a highlight of his later years. He spent his last years at the War Veterans' Home at Caboolture where he was well cared for and happy. He passed away in 1993, three months short short of his 98th birthday.

George's legacy will live on as he built many houses in and around Maleny, including Vue de Lumieres (now a wedding venue) at 644 Maleny/Montville Rd. The Bails next door was part of the bails/dairy for this farm. In 1946 he also helped dismantle an old picture theatre at Maryborough which was transported to Maleny and rebuilt to become the Maleny RSL.

Shirley Larney



Portrait of George Svenson by Lance Bressow.
Entered in the 1991 Archibald Prize. The portrait hangs
in the RSL War Veterans's Home at Caboolture.

