

Edgar Thomas Townsend [3A20]

Family Portrait Circa 1917



L to R **Edgar**, Maud, Edgar, Doris, Ida and Edward

Edgar in the 2/3rd Australian Infantry Battalion





World War Two Service



**LANCE SERGEANT
EDGAR THOMAS TOWNSEND
NX6108**

SERVICE	AUSTRALIAN ARMY
DATE OF BIRTH	14 JUNE 1913
PLACE OF BIRTH	LAKE CARGELLIGO, NSW
DATE OF ENLISTMENT	13 OCTOBER 1939
LOCALITY ON ENLISTMENT	NORTH YELKIN
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	WEST WYALONG, NSW
NEXT OF KIN	TOWNSEND, EDGAR
DATE OF DISCHARGE	3 JULY 1943
POSTING AT DISCHARGE	2/3 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION



COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

EDGAR TOWNSEND LAKE CARGELLIGO

When Edgar Townsend returned from service with the 2/3 Battalion after service in the Middle East and the Islands, he set about establishing himself in the rural industry at Lake Cargelligo where he had had a long affiliation.

He worked as a contract carrier and in 1950 started a stock and station agency which flourished so well that he bought out another similar business, J. C. Lewis, in 1954.

In 1957, he took into partnership Mr. Neville Harris, a young man with agency experience who worked hard with Mr. Townsend and in 1967 he became principal of the firm of Townsend and Harris.

Mr. Townsend then went into partnership with Mr. Nicol Mercer in a property in the Yelkin district where they grew wheat, wool and fat cattle. He suffered the vagaries of the bad seasons but, like many others in the

far west, through hard work and an understanding of the district survived.

Mr. Townsend and his partner later divided the property and now each one has 2500 acres. This season, one of the best many old hands can remember, he has 600 acres of wheat and 300 acres of barley with 60 beef breeders, but he has "gone out of sheep".

Apart from his property, Mr. Townsend has worked very hard, with the help of his wife Frances, in community affairs and among other positions is a councillor on Lachlan Shire, vice-president of the centenary committee, a legatee, a member of the land board, chairman of trustees of Lake

Pen Portrait . . .



MR. TOWNSEND

Cargelligo Memorial Hall, has been twice president of the local Rotary Club (also a foundation member), a life member of the RSI, and has been a councillor on Central Tablelands County Council for 10 years.

Mr. Townsend has also been an active member of

the local show society which he thinks has done tremendous amount of promotion for local industries

The Townsends have their feet well-planted in the Lake Cargelligo district. He was born in the town, left school when he was 13 and drove teams of horses for his father and ploughed the family property with a 10 disc plough for wheat sowing.

His grandfather, Edward went to Whyeo station as young man more than century ago and Edgar worked in various district of the Riverina until the outbreak of war when he went away with the original 16th Brigade to the Middle East in January 1940.

Mr. and Mrs. Townsend have two sons and two daughters and Mrs Townsend end works closely with her husband on the property.

OBITUARY

Edgar Townsend: integrity and honour his by - word

One of Lake Cargelligo's most prominent and best respected citizens Edgar Thomas Townsend died in hospital in London while on a holiday in England on July 4.

He was 63. Mr. Townsend had been advised to return home just before his death.

His body was returned to Lake Cargelligo, and the funeral on July 10 was one of the biggest ever seen in the district.

Mr. Townsend had been held in the highest regard over a wide area of central NSW.

Perhaps the words of R.S.L. President Alan Elwin used during the Service of Remembrance at the graveside are a concise estimation of his life.

"At the outbreak of the 1939/45 world war Edgar Townsend was one of the first to enlist from this area.

"He was on the first convoy of troops to the Middle East in January 1940 and served throughout the campaigns in Libya, Greece and Crete.

"On returning to Australia his battalion the 2/3rd was sent to New Guinea where he was severely wounded on the Kokoda Trail and was subsequently discharged from the army because of the disabilities caused by this wound.

"On returning to civilian life he pursued farming interests for a period until entering the stock and station

agency business — which over the years he and his partner built into one of the best known and respected in the Riverina.

In 1967 Mr. Townsend sold his interest in the farm and bought a property at Yelkin, fulfilling a lifetime ambition.

"In public life his record is equally as impres-



Yelkin where he produced wheat and cattle until his death, assisted in later years by his wife Frances.

Edgar was a reserved man of very strong convictions whose word was his bond. He was a fine soldier but shunned the limelight or even possible advancement in rank. He was a Lance-Sergeant on his discharge.

Mrs. Townsend has received many letters from some of his mates in the army many of whom did not learn of Edgar's death until it was reported in the 2nd-3rd Battalion Newsletter edited by Gordon Terry.

The issue of October 1976 reporting Edgar's death said:

"Edgar was a quiet most efficient Sergeant in our unit; one of those unbelievable blokes, who backed up time and time again to battle and never got flustered or bothered.

"He was typical of the very backbone of the AIF those splendid NCOs who carried on, and on to the limit of endurance, and then kept going until they literally dropped with exhaustion.

"No words are adequate to describe the courage of such men for their courage was unbelievable.

A member of the unit to write Mrs. Townsend was

sive.

"He was a councillor of Lachlan Shire for 20 consecutive years, a councillor of the County Council, a member of the land board, a Justice of the Peace, Chairman of the Trustees of the Memorial Hall, a foundation member and twice president of the Rotary Club, the Legatee for this district and for 25 years president of the local RSL sub branch for which service he was awarded a life membership.

He was also a Master of the Masonic Lodge.

"Edgar Townsend was an outstanding citizen and an outstanding man."

Edgar was the eldest of the nine children of Tom and Ida Townsend, descendants of pioneers of this area, who farmed the property at Yelkin now owned by another son, George.

Edgar attended Lake Cargelligo Public School and as he grew up showed a keen interest and ability to play Rugby League.

As a young man he played for Lake Cargelligo Firsts against Hillston, the team's main rivals in those days.

Leaving school at 13, Edgar helped his father on the farm and was soon driving a wheat truck, delivering wheat to Wargambegal as part of his days work.

After his discharge from the army he worked as a contract carrier — then started a stock agency in small premises where Blocks Radio are now located, later moving across the road to take over the business owned by C. J. Lewis and Co.

Some years later he took Neville Harris as a partner and successfully carried on in business for another 10 years.

In 1967 Edgar sold his interest in Townsend and Harris after helping by straight dealing and integrity to build up what was recognised as one of the best agencies in the western part of the State.

He returned to farming at

local and Euahalong identity Babs Vincent.

Edgar's service records showed that he served from November 3 1939 to July 3 1943.

"The Land" newspaper made reference to Mr. Townsend some years ago in which it was said he was an active member of the local Show Society which he felt provided a lot of promotion for local industries.

"The Land" added:

"The Townsends have their feet well planted in the Lake Cargelligo district.

"Edgar was born in the town, left school at 13 and drove teams of horses for his father and ploughed the family property with a 10 disc plough for wheat sowing.

"His grandfather Edward, went to Whoogo Station as a young man more than a century ago and Edgar worked in various districts of the Riverina until the outbreak of war when he went away with the original 16th Brigade. Edgar Townsend was also generally interested in everything for the advancement of Lake Cargelligo. He very seldom missed a meeting organised for the betterment of the town and district.

Edgar followed most sports, playing cricket and tennis, and he was considered a good swimmer even after suffering the injury to his arm.

He is survived by his wife Frances, two sons Donald (Wagga) and Robert (Lake Cargelligo) and two daughters Kay (Mrs. Roy Chatterton) and Lynda also of Lake Cargelligo.

Three brothers and four sisters also survive, Mat (Kingsgrove), Jack (Quirindi), George (Lake Cargelligo), Maude (Mrs. Hattwell, Lake Cargelligo), Doris (Mrs. Max Smith, Merimbula), Mae (Mrs. Harold Davis, Lake Cargelligo), and June (Mrs. Banning of Canberra). There are six grandchildren.

One brother, Ted, predeceased.