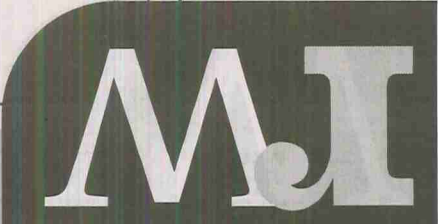


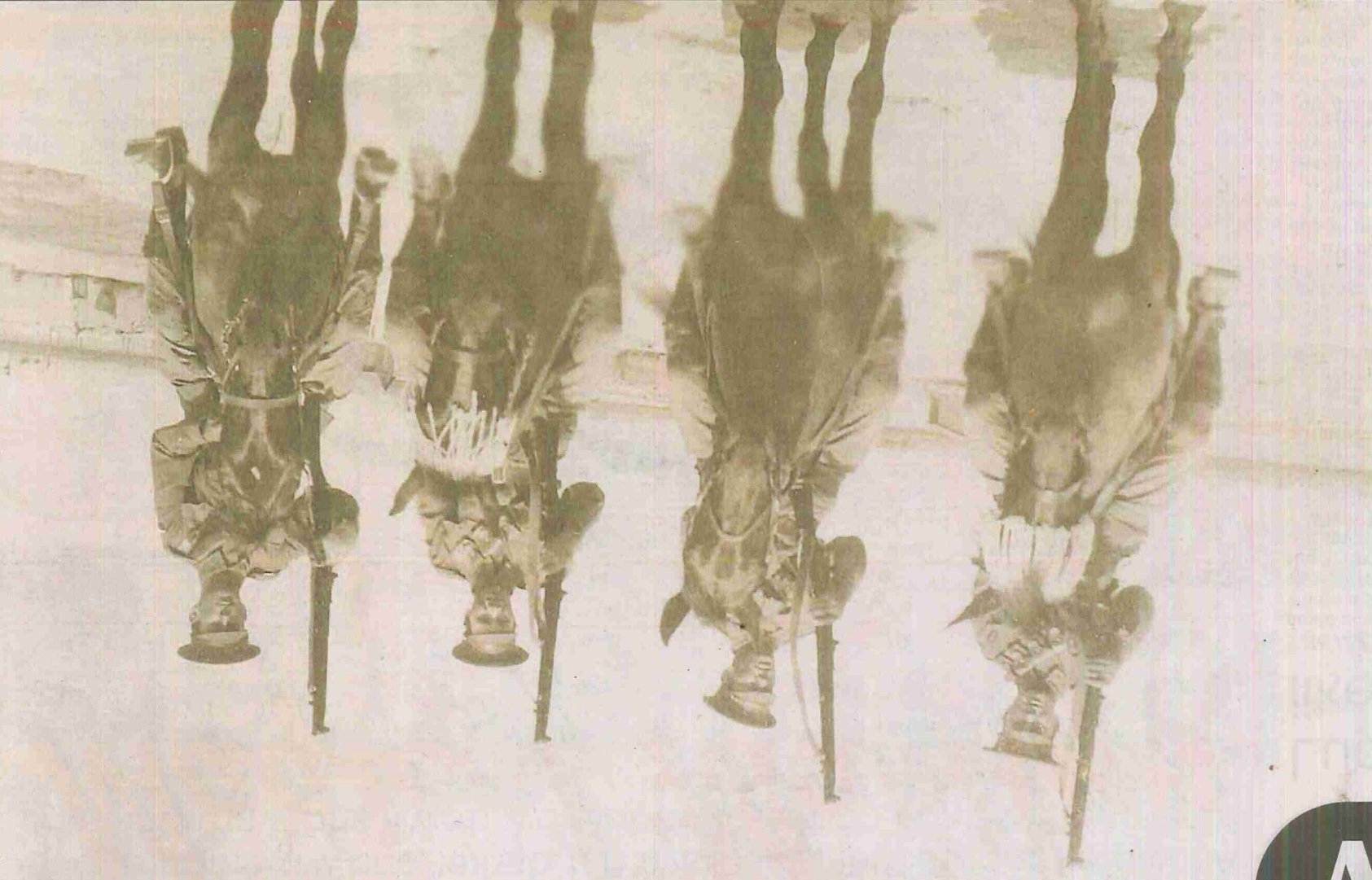
The CSU Regional Archives is extending its opening hours to include the first Saturday of every month. On these days, the archives will be open from 10am to 3pm. The next Saturday opening will occur on May 5. This trial initiative has been put in place to cater for those researchers who are unable to visit the archives during normal business hours. It is hoped that researchers and visitors will avail themselves of this service to warrant it becoming a permanent occurrence.

What you need to know

■ The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in Building on South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with inquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight-forward inquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information, phone 02 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu.au, or visit our website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.



at the archives



THIS image appears on the front of a postcard dated May 15, 1915. The postcard belonged to the Condon family and now forms a part of the Wagga and District Historical Society's Collection. The following is written on the reverse side: Dear Auntie, This is a photo of the section that I have worked with ever since we started. I also enclose one of myself. It is not a very good one as the sun glare on the desert the day it was taken was fearful. I hope you are all well as I am; my love to all, Bert. (Bert is second from right).

Time of honour

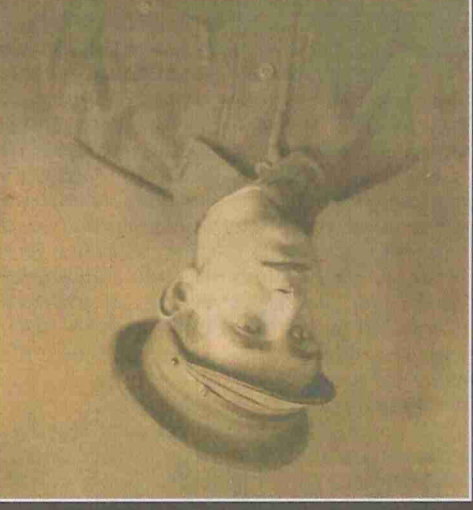
As Anzac Day approaches *The Weekender* takes a look back at WWI letters



ext week, on April 25, Anzac Day commemorative services and marches will be held across Australia to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of the young men and women who joined the forces in all wars and conflicts.

Parents, girlfriends, sisters and extended family members and friends feared for the safety of their loved ones as their young men joined the Australian Expeditionary Forces in World War I and sailed for Europe with pride, hope and adventure. A chaplain's message to "Australian mothers" was forwarded by the United Service Special Cable Service and was published in *The Daily Advertiser* on September 7, 1917. The cable included the following statement: "Asked what the men want from home, the chaplains replied 'Letters.' Mail day is a great occasion. News from home is more welcome than pay day." The families back home also welcomed any news they could get. Many of the letters received from the men overseas were published in *The Daily Advertiser*, excerpts of which follow:

Published July 3, 1917:
Trooper SA Plummer writes to his parents Mr and Mrs WH Plummer "Riverside", Narrandera Road. He a Soldiers Life in The Holy Land. He mentioned that he was sitting under a fig tree in Palestine he wrote the note, which was written on a signal form, as no writing paper was to be had... Trooper Plummer states: "It is entirely different here to the life in Egypt. Although there is plenty of sand there



This photograph depicts Pte. Clarence Wisner of the 18th Battalion. He was from Meadow Vale Uranquinty and enlisted at age 19, Clarence first arrived in France on March 14, 1917 and was reported missing in action on May 3. Several reports made by other soldiers concluded Clarence was hit with a large shell while his battalion was in action at Bullecourt. One informant stated he was "of a very jolly disposition, and for this reason was very popular with his mates". His name is now inscribed on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France.

Published July 4, 1917:
Pte PJ Whyte, writing to his mother, Mrs PJ Whyte, of Collingville, from somewhere in France, says "I am out of action for a week or two having a rest. I am in the best of health. This is the kind of life to make you hardy. People in Australia could hardly realise the destruction in France. The ground we have captured has been torn up, and in one town not a whole brick was to be found. Pte Whyte mentioned that he never came across any of the Cross Road boys, only those in his battalion - D Cameron and FS Taylor, who were both well at the time of writing.

Published July 21, 1917:
Private WM Castle, writing to his father, Mr James Castle, of Wagga, from Larkhill camp, England says that his unit, with others, was inspected on May 11, by Lord French... "I have spoken with several of the boys from the 'Ballarat', and the newspaper reports of their heroism are not exaggerated. They lost everything except what they were wearing - some of them had not even their khaki jackets on... I have met several Wagga boys here including Jim M'Darra, Carranott, Hishon, Tait, Hehir, Ledwell and Ball, most of whom are now in France... I obtained a good certificate in a 10 days bombing course and expect to leave for France next week. Ben (his brother) is still well over in France, and is going strong."

Published July 24, 1917:
Corporal Gordon M'Donnally, son of Mrs EW Donnelly, of Gumly Gumly, writing from Palestine on March 20, mentions his participation in the Gaza battle. He states that the Turks were using some fearful bayonets, having one smooth and one saw-like edge... He kept one by him for sawing wood. Speaking of the country, Corporal Donnelly says: "The place is beautiful. For miles and miles there are crops and grassland and little native villages. The crops are over our stirrups and our horses are having the time of their lives. Poor brutes! They are badly in need of it as it is nearly two years since they had a chance of picking a bit of green grass."