

## The Illawarra Volunteers 1914-1918.

As the basis for a study of the impact of World War 1 in the Illawarra I am currently compiling a database which will hopefully describe every individual man and woman who volunteered for service between 1914 and 1918. For inclusion an individual should have an identifiable link to the Illawarra region which satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

1. Lived in the region at the time of their enlistment.
2. From a family resident in this region, but living out of the region for work purposes, eg a young unmarried school teacher posted to another area but having no other ties to that area.
3. Listed on a war memorial in the Illawarra region. The geographical definition of the Illawarra region for the purposes of this study being all localities from Gerringong to Helensburgh inclusive, and west to the escarpment.

Currently almost 2000 volunteers have been identified with the final total expected to be approximately 2200. This estimate is based on the frequency of previously unidentified individuals found in embarkation rolls. These are usually men who worked in the area but did not have family here, and men whose names do not appear on local memorials for various reasons.

Whilst the statistical analysis of the volunteers will form a considerable part of my study, the impact of the war on everyday life and the personal experiences of the volunteers themselves are of vital importance. I invite anyone with a family who lived in the Illawarra during World War 1, or who is researching a family from this region to contact me, even if only to crosscheck the data that I may already have on your family member. I would especially like to hear from anyone with letters or diaries written during the war years. Any information would be very much appreciated, no matter how small. I am also happy to check the database for any family name and will answer all queries as soon as possible.

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