

**CAPTAIN RUPERT DUFTY HEGGATON - A.A.M.C.
Aust. Mining Corps / 2nd & 3rd Tunnelling Companies**

South Australian Register – Adelaide, SA – Thursday 21 June 1860:

MARRIAGE

HEGGATON—DUFTY.—On the 20th June, by licence, by the Rev. J. Ashton, at Young-street Chapel, Adelaide, Mr. William Heggaton, farmer, of Bald Hills, Encounter Bay, to Miss Mary Dufty of Mount Barker.

Born in Middleton, South Australia on March 11, 1873, Rupert Dufty Heggaton was the son of William and Mary Heggaton. He achieved a Bachelor of Medicine (MB) degree from Sydney University and at 27 years of age served as resident officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney in 1900. He married in 1902 to Elizabeth Louisa Burgess in Sydney, NSW.

On September 16, 1915 the forty-two year-old General Medical Practitioner of Murrumburrah, NSW, with no previous military experience, applied for a Commission in the Aust. Army Medical Corps, A.I.F. He passed the medical examination and was quickly recommended and appointed Captain the same day to the Headquarters of the No.1 Mining Corps which was in the process of being established.

During this formative period and up until the day before the Aust. Mining Corps embarked in February, 1916 Captain Heggaton, as medical officer of the technical staff, performed many medical examinations of the volunteers entering the Casula Camp at Liverpool, NSW.

In final preparation for embarkation official Attestation Forms were completed on February 11, 1916 which disclose his age as 42 years 11 months, height of 175 cms (5ft 9ins), weight 82.7kgs (182lbs), with a chest measurement of 97-104 cms (38-41ins). Fair was his complexion featuring grey eyes and black hair. A scar in the centre of his forehead together with a mole on the left side of his nose and a vaccination mark on his left arm were distinguishing marks of note. Church of England was given as his faith. Mrs Elizabeth Louisa Heggaton of Albury Street, Murrumburrah, NSW was nominated as next-of-kin.

At a civic parade in the Domain, Sydney on Saturday February 19, 1916, a large crowd of relations and friends of the departing Miners lined the four sides of the parade ground. Sixty police and 100 Garrison Military Police were on hand to keep the crowds within bounds. The scene was an inspiring one. On the extreme right flank, facing the saluting base, were companies of the Rifle Club School; next came a detachment of the 4th King's Shropshire Light Infantry, then the bands of the Light Horse, Liverpool Depot, and the Miners' on the left, rank upon rank, the Miners' Battalion.

The Corps boarded HMAT A38 *Ulysses* in Sydney, NSW on February 20 and sailed for the European theatre. Arriving in Melbourne, Victoria on February 22 the Miners camped at Broadmeadows for a stay of 7 days while further cargo was loaded. Another parade was held at the Broadmeadows camp on March 1, the Miners' Corps being inspected by the Governor-General, as Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth military forces.



Leaving Melbourne on March 1, *Ulysses* arrived at Fremantle, Western Australia on March 7 where a further 53 members were taken on board. On Wednesday March 8, 1916 the whole force, with their band and equipment, paraded at Fremantle prior to leaving Victoria Quay at 9.30 o'clock.

The ship hit a reef when leaving Fremantle harbour, stripping the plates for 40 feet and, although there was a gap in the outside plate, the inner bilge plates were not punctured. The men on board nicknamed her '*Useless*'. The Miners were off-loaded and sent to the Blackboy Hill Camp where further training was conducted. The Mining Corps comprised 1303 members at the time they embarked with a Headquarters of 40; No.1 Company – 390; No.2 Company – 380; No.3 Company – 392, and 101 members of the 1st Reinforcements. Finally departing Fremantle on April 1, *Ulysses* voyaged via Suez, Port Said and Alexandria in Egypt.

A fellow officer Captain Victor Morse wrote a letter to his wife as the ship was sailing through the Red Sea and mentions the lectures given by Dr Heggaton to the soldiers on board. This extract comes from his letter:

At sea
Good Friday 21.4.1916

Yesterday I listened to Capt Heggaton (Dr.) give the men a lecture on first dressings followed up with mind and body cleanliness, you know this is a scourge amongst soldiers, there are always a lot who do and there are a greater number who give way owing to the huge number of girls about who worship khaki and have a very flexible virtue.

These latter cause most trouble and disease as they do not know how to be clean or do not bother, (the professional, it pays her to), they are shopgirls mostly.

But the result is terrible gonorhea and syphilis will be the subject the world will have to face after the war. Our isolation hospitals are always full and these men are lost to us as fighters and a waste of money to the country to make fit just to send home again. Abt the time we left a boat containing abt 700 of these arrived in Australia. What result! They're lauded as returned heroes (never having been out of Egypt). A huge number of the future mothers of our next generation given this filthy disease by them to in turn give it to other men.

My, what an asset a pure man and a pure woman is to this country. And why? Very largely cause by this rotten idea about that its modesty not to educate a boy and girl fully in this matter.

Dear, I've spoken before about the Dr. and his lecture to the men here was a thing worth going a long way to hear. It came from a good living Dr. with very high moral ideas and not lacking in telling them so (how few of them care) and his lecture was the talk of the ship. It represented a sermon equal to a life of sermons from any parson. He told them of the horrors to themselves, what they caused others. He says that more than half his doctor work on married women is caused directly and indirectly by one of these two diseases, and men's old age complaints are the same, and worse still the children, those who have no opportunity of choosing, are brought into the world weaklings, etc. etc. with such an unfair start.

He appealed to them from their own selfish point of view, their loved ones, their future wives and offspring of their country's. From everywhere came the response, men asked for more, men that didn't actually hear it asked for it, and the lecture was repeated, he being cheered to the echo each time. The same old story, men didn't know it was so serious in effect etc etc.

The ship's Captain was reluctant to take *Ulysses* out of the Suez Canal because he felt the weight of the ship made it impossible to manoeuvre in the situation of a submarine attack. The troops were transhipped to HM Transport B.1 *Ansonia*, then on to Valetta, Malta before disembarking at Marseilles, France on May 5, 1916. As a unit they entrained at Marseilles on May 7 and detained on May 11 at Hazebrouck.

A 'Mining Corps' did not fit in the British Expeditionary Force, and the Corps was disbanded and three Australian Tunnelling Companies were formed. The Technical Staff of the Corps Headquarters, plus some technically qualified men from the individual companies, was formed into the entirely new Australian Electrical and Mechanical Mining and Boring Company (AEMMBC), better known as the 'Alphabetical Company'.

Captain Heggaton remained with the Headquarters of the Aust. Mining Corps as Medical Officer until attached on October 11, 1916 to the 2nd and 3rd Tunnelling Companies. On November 29 he was posted to the 3rd Tunnelling Company at Wimereux, being taken on strength on December 2, 1916 as their M.O.

A transfer took place on December 19, 1916 to the 2nd Australian General Hospital, London and he proceeded to England via Boulogne.

3ATC End of War Report:

On 20/12/16 Capt N.R. Matthews, A.A.M.C. reported to the Company for duty.

Up till this time Capt R. Heggarton, A.A.M.C. had acted as M.O. for the 2nd & 3rd Australian Tunnelling Companies.

Seven days later on Boxing Day, 1916 he was detached and given temporary duty at the 14th General Hospital, returning on January 11, 1917 to the 2nd Australian General Hospital.

The Doctor remained with this hospital until transferred for duty with D.M.S., A.I.F. Headquarters in London on June 20, 1917. He embarked for Australia on July 21, 1917 as Medical Officer on board H.T. A14 *Euripides* which returned to Melbourne, Vic (3rd Military District) on September 18, 1917 and then travelled by rail to the Sydney, NSW (2nd M.D.).

His appointment was terminated in Australia in Sydney, NSW (2nd M.D.) on October 3, 1917. For his service abroad Captain Rupert Dufty Heggaton, A.A.M.C., 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company, received the British War Medal (33196) and the Victory Medal (32781).

The medals were posted to the Returned Services League, Harden on July 21, 1922 as requested.

The Advertiser – Adelaide, SA – Saturday 17 November 1928:

OBITUARY.

Sad circumstances are associated with the death of Miss Madge Heggaton (the 21-years-old daughter of Dr. Rupert Heggaton), who succumbed within a few minutes to injuries received in a burning accident at her home at Murrumburrah, New South Wales, early this month. Miss Heggaton came to Adelaide to see the last polo carnival matches, and was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Heggaton, at Glenelg, for several weeks. Mr. Heggaton. M.P., is a brother of the young lady's father, who was medical Officer in France during the Great War in the Miners Battalion under Sir Edgeworth David.



On August 15, 1930 a Statement of Service from Base Records was sent to the Repatriation Commission, Riverside Drive, Perth, W.A. Another was sent to the Melbourne Headquarters dated April 20, 1939.

He was the Mayor of Murrumburrah in the 1930s. The Electoral Roll records him as a medical practitioner living at Murrumburrah, NSW between 1930 and 1943.

A letter from the Sydney R.S.S.A.I.L.A dated July 1, 1941 was sent to the Harden Branch attaching a Statutory Declaration to be completed by Dr Heggaton in regards to the non receipt of his medals. This was to be forwarded to Base Records and was stamped receipted on November 21, 1941. In their reply Base Records confirmed that his medals were forwarded to the Harden Services League in 1922 and were never returned unclaimed. A hand written notation on the letter reads: Medals out of stock.

Northern Star – Lismore, NSW – Friday 20 September 1929:

DOCTOR SUED Alleged Slander

SYDNEY, Thursday.

In the Jury Court to-day Joseph Wilson, grazier and ex-mayor of Murrumburrah sued Dr. Rupert Heggaton, also of Murrumburrah, for £2000 damages for alleged slander and assault. Plaintiff's case was that the defendant was defeated in the mayoral elections at Murrumburrah and he accused plaintiff and his friends of engineering the election. It was also alleged that defendant punched Wilson.

The defence was a plea of not guilty.

From 1943 until 1949 he was at Hazelwood, Murrumburrah and a medical practitioner. In 1954 he was residing at 19 Vernon Street, Murrumburrah with the same occupation.

Dr Rupert Heggaton died on August 9, 1958 in Sydney aged 85 years. A Death Notice appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on August 12, 1958:

DEATHS

HEGGATON, Rupert Dufty, M.D.—August 9, 1958, at his daughter's residence, 78 Bellevue Road, Bellevue Hill, formerly of Murrumburrah, loved husband of the late Elizabeth Heggaton, dearly loved father and father-in-law of Vauden (deceased) and Pat, Rupert and Kath, Madge (deceased), Knox (deceased), Elaine, and John (Mr and Mrs J. Rouse) and dear grandfather of their children. Privately cremated 11th instant.

Cremation took place at Eastern Suburbs Crematorium, Sydney on August 11 and his ashes were placed in the Crematorium Chapel Gardens in Garden F5.

Two sons of Rupert and Elizabeth Heggaton served in World War 2:

**FLIGHT SERGEANT KNOX WILLIAM HEGGATON
402924 - 59 Squadron, RAAF**

Born 11 March 1911 at Murrumburrah, NSW, Knox, a Station Overseer, enlisted in the 7th Light Horse Regiment (Militia Forces) on 24 April 1937. By September 1939 he had attained the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 with 21st Light Horse. He enlisted in the 2nd A.I.F. on 11 November 1940 at Sydney, NSW, naming his father Rupert Heggaton as his Next-of-Kin.

He left Sydney on 28 December 1940 as a member of the fifth group sent to Canada to take part in training through the Empire Training Scheme (EATS). The Group of Wireless Operators and Air Gunners of the 5th Canadian Draft (Canada 5), RAAF were photographed in Montreal, Canada in June 1941 (AWM Image Id: P02739.005 – Heggaton not present in photo).

The National Archives of Australia NAA hold files: Series: A705; Barcode: 1057495 titled: HEGGATON Knox William - (Flight Sergeant); Service Number - 402924; File type - Casualty - Repatriation; Aircraft - Hudson III V 9163; Place - North Sea, north west coast Germany; Date - 11 May 1942.

The Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour records:

Knox William Heggaton, 402924 Flight Sergeant, 59 Squadron RAF, Royal Australian Air Force; Date of Death: 11 May 1942, North Sea, Flying Battle. Commemorated at Runnymede Memorial, United Kingdom.

Knox William Heggaton's name is located at Panel 123 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial. He is also commemorated on the Murrumburrah NSW Roll of Honour.

Also recorded on NAA are:

DONAGHY Patrick Joseph - (Flight Sergeant); Service Number - 6501; File type - Hudson - Repatriation; Aircraft Hudson III V9163; Place - Island of Heligoland, North Sea; Date - 11 May 1942.

Commemorated on Runnymede Memorial

KERMODE Kenneth William - (Flight Sergeant), Service Number – 402363; 59 Sqn, Killed in Action 11 May 1942 North Sea in a Flying Battle

Commemorated on Runnymede Memorial

SCOLLER Chandos - (Flight Sergeant); Service Number - 402674; File type - Casualty - Repatriation; Aircraft Hudson III V9163; Place - Heliogoland, Germany; Date - 11 May 1942

Buried in Hamburg Cemetery, Germany.

From www.number59.com : 11 May 1942 Hudson V V9163 No.59 Sqn – North Coates – Belly landed at the airfield after returning from operations.

Flight/Mission Details:

Base: North Coates

Take off time 1152 hrs

Op: Rover

59 Squadron lost two Hudson bombers on this day. The names as listed on the North Coates roll of honour are listed below. I have found this roll to be unreliable with some of the non RAF names. Not sure how the two crews were grouped.

NEILSON -14 Apr'42 posted in to 59 Sqn

11 May'42 North Coates – First sortie

Aircraft: TRN V9163 Mk.V (Hudson crew who survived), Crew: P/O Neilson, Sgts Menzies, Whitney, Tuckwood.

Duty: Rover:

Time Up: 1152 Down 1614.

Details: Sighted c/v of 8 ships including 1 x 10,000 ton m/v and 2 DRS 20mi. NNE of BORKUM RIFF. Attacked DR with 2 x 250 A/S 3TD and 6 x 100 A/S 3TD in stick, diving from 300 to 50ft port to starboard forward of bridge. Results not observed owing to evasive action. A/c hit by flak. Hydraulics went u/s – but made excellent belly landing at base. None of crew hurt. References: NC/01/11/5, NC/04/11/5 - On the same sortie both TRF, crewed by P/O Moss, Sgt Baker, F/S Coombs, Sgt Davis and in TRV Sgts Scouller, Doughy (Donaghy), Neggaton (Heggaton) and Kermode respectively failed to return. I'm not 100% on spellings as the ORB is hand written at this point.

Taken from the memoires of HF Tuckwood:

Our first operational trip together was nearly our last. We were in on of three Hudsons to attack a German convoy of eight merchant ships and two destroyers. The policy was to dive 50 or so feet and drop four 250 pound bombs on whatever ship we could. Unfortunately the other two planes were shot down...

Taken from the memoires of EE Allen:

Allen also makes mention of this day in his memoires as he trained with Neilson in Canada and they were both posted to 59 Sqn together in mid March 1942. He notes that this convoy was not only heavily defended by flak boats but also had fighter cover from airfields close by the convoy route.

Following post war enquiries and investigations, it was established that Flt Sgt Scouller's body was washed ashore on the Island of Heligoland, an island in the North Sea off the north west coast of Germany. His remains were buried in the local cemetery and re-interred in the Hamburg (Ohlsdorf) British Military Cemetery. German documents also confirmed that the remains of Flt Sgt Donaghy and Sgt Heggaton were recovered from the sea, but the location of their graves could not be established. Both Flt Sgt Donaghy and Sgt Heggaton together with Sgt Kermode (missing) are recorded as having no known grave. Their names are commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, Runnymede, Surrey, UK. (RAAF Casualties in WW2 - Alan Storr)

LEST WE FORGET

CORPORAL VAUDAN DUFTY HEGGATON

NX68823 - 3rd Reserve Motor Transport Company, Australian Army Service Corps

Born 22 Jun 1903 at Murrumburrah, NSW he enlisted 1 Jul 1939 at Paddington, NSW, living at Cootamundra, NSW. Vaudan married Cora Patfield on 6 February 1930 at Clayfield, NSW.

When he enlisted for service in World War 2 he named his wife Cora of "Narina", Cootamundra as his Next-of-Kin.

The Grenfell Record and Lachlan District Advertiser – NSW – Thursday 26 February 1942:

JAPANESE PAMPHLET TO ANZACS.

Claim English Have Contempt for Dominions.

Lance-Corporal Heggaton, of Cootamundra, was one of the last members of the A.I.F. across the Johoro causeway, having worked right down the peninsula with the transport divisions.

Another Cootamundra man who was with him over the causeway was Pte. Alan McClintock. In a letter to his wife, Lance Corporal Heggaton sent a copy of the pamphlet dropped by the Japanese, which read:-
Warning to Australian soldiers.

We should like to inform you Australian soldiers that —

1. As at present the main Fleets of the English Far Eastern and American Pacific Squadrons have been nearly destroyed, it is evident you will have to incur the most miserable and dreadful plight of Crete and Dunkirk if you dare to continue fighting against us.
2. According to a London order a great many transports have been assembled to take home British soldiers in Malaya. We regret to say that they are now under our fierce air raids.
3. You are aware that the English treat you with contempt as sheep farmers, and in the present war they put you in the front line and themselves in the rear to watch you fight and die. Thus a good many Australian soldiers were killed in the battlefields of Malaya and Kelantan during hand to hand fighting against Japanese soldiers; and those of you who are left behind will also be killed mercilessly.

Vaudan Dufty Heggaton died of illness (dysentery) on 27 October 1942 in Burma (Myanmar) and is buried at Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Burma (Myanmar).

Vaudan Dufty Heggaton's name is located at Panel 81 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

Vaudan is also commemorated on the Cootamundra Roll of Honour.



Photo of headstone by kind permission of
The War Graves Photographic Project
www.twgpp.org

LEST WE FORGET

Harden-Murrumburrah Avenue of Trees

This avenue of poplar trees planted on the 15th September 1949 was donated by Dr. R.D. and Mrs. Heggaton in memory of their two sons Vaudan Dufty Heggaton and Knox William Heggaton who lost their lives on active service in World War 1939-1945.



Images by kind permission of Peter Levarre-Waters and the State Library of New South Wales, Register of War Memorials in New South Wales.