



Michael Fallon

November 4th 1897 - 1964

World War 1 & World War 11

Premier's ANZAC Spirit Assignment September 2011 (by Ashleigh Fallon)

Assignment Overview:

Describe the journey of a South Australian who served as an ANZAC during World War One. Using a range of resources describe the ANZAC spirit this person provided in their war service.

"The Sea and the Stars: The Wartime Journey of Michael Fallon".

C E W Bean (1946) wrote 'ANZAC came to signify the qualities which Australians have seen their forces exhibit in war. These attributes cluster around several ideas: endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour and mateship.'

These qualities collectively constitute what is described as the ANZAC spirit and in this assignment I would like to reflect how these qualities apply to my great grandfather Michael Fallon.

Background of Michael Fallon:

Michael Fallon was my great grandfather, and was born on the 4th of November 1897 in Liverpool, England. He was one of eight sons in a large Catholic Family with significant Irish heritage. The Fallon Family moved from Dublin, Ireland to Liverpool, England in the early 1890's to provide a better opportunity of life for their boys.

Michael Fallon left home at the age of fourteen and joined the British Merchant Navy as an able seaman in 1912. Most of his early years in the merchant navy were spent in ships ferrying goods throughout most parts of Europe.

The First World War

When the outbreak of war occurred in 1914, Michael Fallon continued his work in the British Merchant Navy and undertook voyages transporting both troops and equipment from England to European ports. In 1915 the Merchant Navy was used to transport Allied troops for an assault on Turkey which was later etched into Australian History as the landing at Gallipoli.

Michael Fallon at this time was aged seventeen and it was his first experience encountering active war. His role was to transport troops from the ship to the Gallipoli beach and he was known as a 'boat boy'.

On April 15th and 16th he completed approximately 10 landings of troops to the Gallipoli shoreline and as a young boy at the time, he did not realize the importance and significance of this role he played in a place which is now known as ANZAC Cove.

After The War:

At the end of World War One, Michael Fallon ceased work with the British Merchant Navy after being awarded two decorations for his service. Michael Fallon received The First World War Mercantile Marine Medal and the British War Medal. (Refer Annexure A)

Like many others returning home after the war, Michael Fallon returned to the family home and spent time with his parents and brothers. During this time he met the daughter of another merchant seaman and after a brief courtship he married Catherine Fitzgerald in 1920.

Employment was difficult to find in England in the early 1920's and this is where Michael Fallon parted ways with the rest of his family. Opportunities were provided for people to either migrate to USA or Australia to start a new life. Michael and Catherine Fallon made the decision to migrate to Australia whilst all of his brothers migrated to the USA.

Settlement in Australia:

As Michael Fallon loved the sea, he and his wife decided to settle in Port Lincoln, SA which had a huge shipping port and harbor. The Fallon's purchased a block of land and built a home in Dublin Street as this street name reminded Michael of his strong Irish heritage.

Michael found work on the Port Lincoln wharf as a wool lumper and over the next few years he and Catherine gave birth to two children. Brian was born in 1929 and Maureen was born in 1932. (Refer Annexure B)

World War Two:

With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 work became quite scarce in Port Lincoln and many of the wharf workers lost their jobs. Many of the young men in Port Lincoln enlisted in the army but Michael Fallon was over the age of enlistment. Michael Fallon was aged 41 when the war commenced and decided to falsify his age and enlist.

Michael Fallon enlisted in the Australian Army on the 3rd of November 1939 which was the day before his 42nd birthday. He advised the army that he was aged 31.

Michael served in the Australian Army 2nd 10th Battallion and completed 825 days of active service outside of Australia with most of this time spent in North Africa. His platoon saw active service in Tobruk under the command of Lt Malcolm Ellenby.

This is where the ANZAC spirit of Michael Fallon was seen. The platoon completed many reconnaissance patrols in 1941 and it is the merchant naval experience of Michael which he used to assist his platoon on many occasions.

The young Australian officer and his platoon completed many day and night patrols in the Libyan desert but on many occasions during storms became disoriented and lost direction.

Michael's navy experience provided the ingenuity for the platoon to avoid travelling in the wrong direction and avoid capture from his knowledge of the Northern Stars. On many occasions he would advise Lt Ellenby that the platoon was travelling in the wrong direction and provided the correct directions based on the position of the stars.

When looking at the ANZAC Spirit attributes of courage and mateship this is where Michael Fallon demonstrated his true bravery and this is explained in a Adelaide newspaper article dated 30th August 1989.

Lt Ellenby highlighted that his life was saved by his mates in the 'best platoon there was'. (Refer Newspaper Article: Annexure C)

Michael Fallon defied Lt Ellenby's orders to leave him behind after he was severely injured from enemy fire. Michael lifted Lt Ellenby and started walking towards camp when Lt Ellenby was again shot in the lower leg and fell to the ground.

Instead of leaving him behind to return to safety (as ordered to do so), Michael Fallon picked up Lt Ellenby and slung him over his shoulder like a wheat bag. He then carried Lt Ellenby some two miles under direct enemy fire back to the safety of their camp.

Lt Ellenby received a Military Cross from this battle and Michael Fallon was listed to receive a Military Medal for his bravery in saving the life of his commanding officer. (Refer Annexure D)

In late 1941, before the Australian Troops were evacuated from Tobruk, Michael Fallon received a telegram from the Army advising him that his daughter Maureen (aged 9 years) had died after contracting an infectious disease called diphtheria.

Michael Fallon and a few of his close platoon mates were devastated by this news and went to Alexandrina for three days on unofficial leave. He drank alcohol to overcome the grief of losing his only daughter. Michael and his friends returned to Tobruk and received severe reprimands for their unofficial leave and Michael Fallon's Military Medal decoration was withdrawn due to his misdemeanor.

The End of Wartime Service:

Michael Fallon was immediately shipped home to Australia to return to his family. He arrived in Adelaide in December 1941 and withdrew his son Brian from secondary school exams at Sacred Heart College (where he was a boarder during the war) and returned home to Port Lincoln and buried his daughter. (Refer Annexure D)

They spent Christmas of 1941 in Port Lincoln and remained there until Michael was honorably discharged from the Australian Army in November 1943 after completing 1461 days of service. (Refer Annexure E)

Michael Fallon (like many others) never spoke much about his war experiences at Gallipoli and Tobruk and he led a normal life after his war service.

Michael Fallon was my great grandfather whom I never met but my dad tells me that his ANZAC Spirit has led to the opportunities that my family now have today. Michael Fallon has a simple life philosophy, enjoy your life and ensure that you provide at least the same opportunities in life or better for your children. I know this because my father keeps telling me how this has been passed down through the generations from Michael Fallon.

Michael Fallon was an active member of the Port Lincoln RSL Sub-branch until his death in 1964 (aged 66 years) where he was buried with military honours in the Port Lincoln RSL Cemetery.

Michael Fallon (in my eyes) demonstrated the true ANZAC Spirit of endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour and mateship.

Annexure A: Medal Card of Michael Fallon

Annexure B: Pictures of Michael's Children, Brian and Maureen taken in 1939.

Annexure C: Lt. Malcolm Ellenby Newspaper article dated August 30, 1989.

Annexure D: Michael and Catherine at the burial site of Maureen.

Annexure E: Discharge Papers of Michael Fallon

Other Attachments:

Michael Fallon: War time Service and Medal Display in my home.

Michael Fallon: Copy of Birth Certificate and RSL Membership.



Michael & Catherine Fallon

at the burial site of Maureen Fallon 1944

Catholic Church Cemetery

Port Lincoln South Australia



Michael Fallon's daughter Maureen Fallon

(aged 7 years) 1939

Passed away while Michael was away at War



Michael Fallon's son Brian Fallon (my grandfather)
(aged 10 years) 1939



Michael Fallon's 'War Service Memorial'
held in the family home

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Registration Number: Pa. 024379/291F



1890 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Seacombe

in the County of Liverpool

REGISTRATION DISTRICT

Liverpool

in the County of Liverpool

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|----------------|---------------|-----|----------------------------|--|---|---|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Year when born | Name of child | Sex | Name and surname of father | Name, surname and maiden surname of mother | Profession, occupation or trade of father | Signature, description and residence of informant | When registered | Signature of registrar | Name entered after registration |
| 1890 | Michael | M | Richard | Elizabeth | Seaman | The mother of the informant | 1890 | [Signature] | Michael |
| 1890 | Elizabeth | F | Richard | Elizabeth | Merchant | Seacombe | 1890 | [Signature] | Elizabeth |
| 1890 | Richard | M | Richard | Elizabeth | Merchant | Seacombe | 1890 | [Signature] | Richard |

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the Register of Births in the District above mentioned given at the General Register Office, London, under the Seal of the said Office, the 15th day of October 1919

DXA 546182

This certificate is issued in accordance of the provisions of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1911. It is a true copy of an entry in the Register of Births in the District above mentioned given at the General Register Office, London, under the Seal of the said Office, the 15th day of October 1919.


Form 45 (Rev. 1918) No. 1000



Michael Fallon's Birth Certificate

May 1957
 Port Limerick SB

No 19135 E



RECEIVED FROM OLD NEW TRANSFER MEMBER M. Fallon

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| SERVICE No. | FORCE | BADGE No. |
| SX 1410 | Gr 10 th Batt. | |

ADDRESS Dublin St. Port Limerick

the sum of one Pounds — Shillings — Pence

subscription to December, 1957

Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, S.A. Branch, Inc.

£ 1 : - : -

Per: [Signature] 26856

Michael Fallon - RSL Membership Receipt 1957

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACT, 1874.
 CERTIFICATE of REGISTRY of BIRTH.

I, the undersigned, Do hereby certify that the Birth of
Michael Fallon
 born on the 4th day of Nov 1897, has been duly registered
 by me at Entry No. 224 of my Register Book No. 281.

Witness my hand, this 20 day of Dec 1897

[Signature] Registrar of Births and Deaths.
St Martin Sub-District.

1072a

Michael Fallon's Birth Certificate 1897



The Honour Board in Port Lincoln features my Great Grandfather's name Michael Fallon

PORT LINCOLN 5606

MEMORIAL: Honour Board

LOCATION: Tasman Terrace, in the Soldiers Memorial Hall auditorium

DESCRIPTION: A framed polished wooden board with ten columns of names, all details are in gold paint

INSCRIPTIONS:

HONOR ROLL

1939 . WORLD WAR II . 1945

ENLISTMENTS FROM PORT LINCOLN

Columns 1-4:

AINSLIE.R.S.
ANDERSON.C.B.
ANNANDALE.T.
ARGENT.H.G.
ARNALL.C.R.

ARROWSMITH.D.
ARROWSMITH.R.B.
ASHTRON.H.T.
ASHTON.J.E.
AUSTIN.F.C.

BAILLIE.M.
BAIN.T.M.
BAKER.B.
BAKER.H.
BAKER.R.A.
BAKER.R.G.

*BLACKMAN.M.
BLACKWOOD.K.A.
BLACKER.I.
BLANN.A.R.
BOYES.J.J.

BOYLAN.L.L.
BOYLAN.M.K.
BOX.J.
BRABHAM.R.C.
BRACKEN.W.J.
BRANFORD.N.J.

BRENNAND.F.C.
BREWSTER.A.
BREWSTER.J.W.
BREWSTER.L.C.
BREWSTER.N.L.
BREWSTER.P.

CALDERWOOD.R.
CAMERON.W.A.
CAREY.V.
CARR.D.
CARR.S.R.

CARR.W.
CASEY.R.W.
CELESTE.C.S.
CHAPMAN.H.D.
CLEARY.J.J.
CLOSE.S.M.

COFFEY.F.J.
COLGAN.J.R.
COTTON.G.L.
CORE.A.
COONEY.L.V.
CURNOW.V.

DUBOIS.E.D.
DUBOIS.L.G.
DUGAN.W.H.
DURBIN.R.

EAST.K.
EDWARDS.N.
EDWARDS.T.
EMES.R.
EMMS.H.E.
EMMS.S.

ETTRIDGE.G.
ETTRIDGE.R.
FABIAN.W.J.
FALLON.F.
FALLON.M.
FELTUS.H.F.

BALDWIN.W.
BARNETT.L.G.
BARNETT.T.
BARRETT.D.C.
BARWICK.C.C.
BARWICK.G.B.
BARWICK.W.F.
BASSHAM.R.
BASSHAM.S.
BASCOMBE.R.H.
BASCOMBE.T.J.
BATES.G.
BAWDEN.S.L.
BAWDEN.V.
BAYES.J.F.
BEAMES.C.N.
BENNETT.A.F.
BERRY.H.J.
BEST.C.W.
BIRD.E.
BIRD.H.V.
BIRD.R.
BIRDSEY.D.R.

BREWSTER.R.
BRIERLY.J.
BROWN.E.F.
BROWN.L.
BROWNE.G.
BRYANT.K.R.
BRYANT.L.
BRYANT.R.C.
BRYANT.R.G.
BRYANT.T.
BUDDLE.A.G.
BUDDLE.M.H.
BUICK.R.
BURNETT.S.
BURTON.A.W.
BUTLER.J.
BUTLER.V.
BUXTON.R.G.
BUXTON.J.
BUXTON.R.J.
BYLES.S.W.
POOLE.C.F.

DANIEL.J.S.
DAVIES.R.H.
DERMODY.A.E.
DIX.J.
DIX.L.W.
DOBBINS.E.W.
DOBBINS.J.
DOBBINS.R.T.
DOBBINS.W.E.
DOCKING.A.T.
DOCKING.K.J.
DOLAN.E.
DORWARD.K.G.
DORWARD.L.
DORWARD.M.
DORWARD.R.M.
DORWARD.N.
DOUDLE.R.W.
DOUDY.H.A.
DOUDY.J.
DOWD.J.
DRY.R.J.

FELTUS.R.B.
FERRES.W.
FERRIER.P.L.
FEWSTER.T.
FISHER.S.
FLANAGAN.A.
FORSTER.M.W.
FRANCIS.A.C.
FRASER.A.K.
FRASER.R.R.
FRASER.W.
FREERS.W.M.
FULWOOD.M.
GAGE.M.
GAGE.C.J.
GASSMIER.M.
GEDDES.P.
GEORGE.L.A.
GERBLICH.W.N.
GERMEIN.R.W.
GORDON.L.M.
GIBSON.H.L.

Columns 5-8:

GIBSON.T.F.
GIBSON.W.I.
GILLATT.T.B.
GILFORD.S.V.
HAGE.L.C.
HALLIDAY.R.G.
HAMMOND.L.A.
HAMMOND.J.S.
HAMMOND.T.W.
HARDING.J.
HARVEY.D.L.
HARVEY.G.G.
HARVEY.H.E.
HARVEY.R.J.
HASSELL.A.K.
HAYES.L.W.
HAYMAN.J.F.
HEGARTY.V.J.
HAGGARTY.J.J.
HEINZE.W.J.
HENDERSON.M.G.
HILLIER.G.
HIRCHAUSEN.W.
HOGAN.C.W.
HOPPING.A.
HOPPING.C.
HURRELL.D.
HUTTON.W.G.
HYDE.S.
HYDE.W.
HYDE.W.S.
JACOBS.A.R.
JACOBS.M.R.
JACOBS.P.L.
JAMIESON.R.W.
JEANES.E.C.
JENKINS.J.L.
JENSEN.J.
JENSEN.W.
JERICO.L.W.

JOHNSON.A.C.
JOHNSON.B.
JOHNSON.H.D.
JOHNSON.J.
JOHNSON.P.
JOHNS.R.
JONES.D.
JONES.H.C.
JONES.L.R.
JUNIPER.D.C.
KAERGER.R.F.
KEANE.T.D.
KEARNES.W.
KELLY.J.T.
KING.G.J.
KING.H.E.
KING.R.G.
KING.T.
KING.T.R.
LAKIN.M.E.
LARKING.B.D.
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LEHMAN.A.K.
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LONG.T.R.
LOW.E.L.
LOW.G.P.
MARKS.W.G.
MARSHMAN.A.M.
MARTIN.J.J.
MARTIN.W.E.
MATTHEWS.R.C.
MENDS.C.C.
MERCHANT.E.R.
MERCHANT.E.C.
MERCHANT.J.L.
MERCHANT.K.W.
MERCHANT.W.D.
MILLER.T.G.

MILLER.W.
MILLER.W.J.
MILLHOUSE.E.
MILLHOUSE.G.
MILLHOUSE.R.W.
MILLIKAN.J.H.
MOGG.W.
MORRISON.E.J.
MORRISON.G.F.
MUDGE.L.E.
MACCUSPIE.P.J.
MACCUSPIE.D.P.
McDOUGALL.E.G.
McDONALD.H.T.
McDONALD.I.H.
McDONALD.N.E.
McFARLANE.J.K.
McINTYRE.J.D.
McKELVIE.N.L.
McLAREN.J.R.
McLEOD.R.H.
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O'BRIEN.J.F.
O'BRIEN.W.
O'BYRNE.L.S.
O'CONNOR.E.E.
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OLIVER.H.C.
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PAGE.J.
PAGE.S.W.
PAGE.J.W.
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ROBINSON.G.
ROBINSON.L.W.
ROE.C.A.
ROGERS.F.H.
ROGERS.W.C.A.
ROGERS.W.C.E.
RYAN.S.P.
SAMPSON.D.J.
SAMPSON.H.R.
SAMPSON.K.R.
SANDERS.W.J.
SAUNDERS.F.J.

Columns 9-10:

SCHRAMM.F.A.
SCOTT.S.E.

TEAGLE.W.P.
TESTROW.H.

SCRUBY.N.E.
SEGNIT.A.H.
SELLEN.N.W.
SHANNON.R.
SHADDOCK.R.C.
SHEPHERD.J.A.
SHEPHERD.R.F.
SHEPHERD.S.
SHERIFF.L.B.
SIMS.R.
SINKINSON.L.F.
SINKINSON.N.B.
SLATER.A.L.
SLATER.K.D.
SMITH.A.E.
SMITH.D.S.
SMITH.E.R.
SNASHALL.C.C.
SNOWDEN.R.J.
SPEED.J.R.
SPEED.T.H.
SPENCER.C.D.
SPENCER.C.S.
SPENCER.G.A.
SPENCER.J.B.
SPENCER.L.
SPENCER.L.C.
SPENCER.W.
STACEY.T.N.
STAGG.J.E.
STANDING.W.G.
STARKEY.E.W.
STASINOWSKY.J.
STEBBING.C.G.
STEPHENS.J.M.
SULLIVAN.C.T.
SWANN.J.G.
SIMMONS.W.J.
TELFER.R.W.

THRELFALL.W.H.
TRELEAVEN.K.J.
TRIGG.B.S.
TRIGG.D.E.
TRIGG.N.F.
TRIGG.N.S.
TRIGG.S.L.
TURNER.J.L.
TURNER.W.H.
TYLER.C.E.
TYLER.D.S.
TYLER.J.R.
TYLER.R.R.
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VIGAR.C.L.
WALKER.C.T.
WALKER.R.V.
WALMSLEY.S.A.
WARNER.C.J.
WATHERSTON.D.E.
WATHERSTON.S.G.
WEHR.A.L.
WHAIT.R.D.
WHAIT.R.G.
WHILLAS.R.B.
WILBY.E.
WILKINSON.R.N.
WILLIAMS.D.G.
WILLIAMS.H.K.
WILLIAMS.J.R.
WILLIAMS.V.C.
WISEMAN.R.G.
WOOD.S.G.
WOOD.T.L.
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Place of Birth: Liverpool

Date 1885

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| NAME | SERVICE NUMBER | HONOUR | PLACE |
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| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Service Record | |
| Name | FALLON, MICHAEL |
| Service | Australian Army |
| Service Number | SX1410 |
| Date of Birth | 4 Nov 1897 |
| Place of Birth | LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND |
| Date of Enlistment | 3 Nov 1939 |
| Locality on Enlistment | PORT LINCOLN, SA |
| Place of Enlistment | PORT LINCOLN, SA |
| Next of Kin | FALLON, CATHERINE |
| Date of Discharge | 3 Nov 1943 |
| Rank | Lance Corporal |
| Posting at Discharge | A SUB HQ AUST KIT STORE |
| WW2 Honours and Gallantry | None for display |
| Prisoner of War | No |

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MICHAEL FALLON SERVICE RECORD
WWII

* MICHAEL FALLON'S COMMANDING OFFICER *

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| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Description | <p>Name * Ellenby, Malcolm Richard *</p> <p>Rank: Lieutenant</p> <p>Service No: SX 1161</p> <p>Regiment: 10 Australian Infantry Battalion Australian Imperial Force</p> <p>Theatre of Combat or Operation: Middle East (Egypt and Libya)</p> <p>Award: Military Cross</p> <p>Date of Announcement in London Gazette: 30 December 1941</p> |
| Date | 1941-1942 |
| Catalogue reference | WO 373/18 |
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