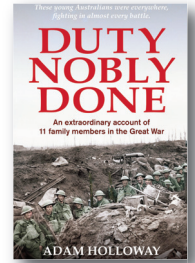


BOOK REVIEW:

Duty nobly done: an extraordinary account of 11 family members in the Great War

by Adam Holloway

*Big Sky Publishing: Newport, NSW; 2018; 519 pp.; ISBN 9781925675832; RRP \$34.99;
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This is a remarkable, well-researched book about 11 members of the one extended family – the Holloways, from Roma, Queensland – who served in the Australian Imperial Force in the Great War of 1914-1919. Roma is 515km west of Brisbane and, in 1914, the district's population was only 2300.

The book is part of a new genre of war history – personal family history set in a much larger context. While assisting our comprehension of that time, now a distant memory, it tells the stories of ordinary men who served in the ranks.

Adam Holloway, the author, is a direct descendant. He describes the larger battles, Somme, Pozières, Hamel *etc.* in which family members participated and has been able to pinpoint where the various family members, and their battalions, were located as the war progressed.

Set out in detail are the stories of Private Edwin (Eddie) Holloway, 57th Battalion, who was killed-in-action; Private Alfred Holloway, 47th Battalion, who was killed-in-action; Private Eric Holloway, 26th Battalion, who was later a pharmacist; Private Hilton Brooks, 26th Battalion, who was killed-in-action; Private Ernest (Ernie) Brooks,

15th and 47th Battalions; Private William (Bill) Holloway, 9th, 47th, 49th and 52nd Battalions, who was mentioned-in-despatches; Private Henry (Chick) Holloway, 15th Battalion, who was twice awarded the Military Medal; Private Ernest (Noog) Holloway, 9th Battalion, who was wounded-in-action; Sergeant Frank Holloway, 9th Battalion, a Gallipoli veteran; Warrant Officer Class One Arthur Miscamble, Australian Army Medical Corps, who was later mayor of Roma; and Private Ernest (Ern) Miscamble, 9th and 41st Battalions. Each of the author's relatives has been painstakingly followed from enlistment to the end of their lives – the post-war careers of the eight survivors being summarised in an epilogue.

An important omission, though, is an index. I also found the use of nicknames or shortened names did not assist my comprehension of the stories. Further, many readers would not know to which brigade (approximately 3-5000 men) of which division (approximately 17,000 men) any of the battalions mentioned belonged. These shortcomings, however, do not detract significantly from what is a tour-de-force in a wartime family history. The book is highly recommended.

Roland Millbank