



Letters should be sent to the Editor, *Wartime*, Australian War Memorial, GPO Box 345, Canberra ACT 2601, or emailed to wartime@awm.gov.au. Due to pressure on space, letters which are published may be edited for length.

To the Editor,

In regard to the article by Richard Reid on “Heroic Nurses” in *Wartime* 7, Dr Reid mentions four known Australians who were awarded the clasp to the 1914 star.

Perhaps there is a fifth candidate. Mulwaree High School has a Remembrance Corridor of trees for all Goulburn men and women killed on active service this century. In the First World War section, we have a plaque for one William Thomas Leggett, Corporal of Horse, First King’s Life Guards, Killed in Action at Gheluwe, Belgium, on 14th October 1914. Another town museum has him serving in the King’s Own Regiment.

Corporal Leggett was born and raised in Goulburn. I have viewed his service medals, and the 1914 star does not have the clasp,

but perhaps based on Dr Reid’s information in the article, it should have been awarded.

If that is indeed the case, then Corporal Leggett would be the fifth person who has or should have the clasp. As a curious coincidence, that would mean that three of the five people deserving of the Mons Star were from the Goulburn district.

Bill Needham, Mulwaree High School

Richard Reid replies:

Mr Needham is correct. The Commonwealth War Graves “Debt of Honour” database shows that Corporal of Horse, William Thomas Leggett, 1st Life Guards, died on 14 October 1914. He is buried in Harlebeke New British Cemetery, West - Vlaanderen, Belgium.

To the Editor,

Issue 7 of *Wartime* carried an article entitled “Know your warships”. While an excellent article there were a few errors. These were:

1. The *Grimsby*-class sloop HMAS *Warrego* was listed as being decommissioned in 1944 when in fact she served until 1963.
2. The *Ton*-class minesweeper HMAS *Ibis* was listed as decommissioned in 1968 when she was not decommissioned until 1984.

3. The silhouette purporting to be that of a *River*-class DE (middle of page 59) is certainly not a DE and looks more like a blown up version of the Second World War *River*-class frigate displayed at the top of page 59.

Lieutenant Commander Greg Swinden, RAN

To the Editor,

Whilst browsing through the latest issue of *Wartime*, I was interested to find an article on ships of the RAN.

That article shows the *Grimsby*-class sloop, HMAS *Swan*, to have been in service from 1937 until 1956. The latter date is certainly not correct because, as you will see from the enclosed copy of a page from my Service Certificate, I joined her on 26 January 1960 and left her on 19 April 1961. I suggest that a more likely date is 1965. Transposition of the last two digits of the year would explain the error. I do not have documentary evidence to support this contention but seem to remember seeing a newspaper report that “HMAS *Swan*, the oldest ship in the RAN, had paid off” when I was working in Woomera. I was there from 1961 to 1966.

Ken Anderson, Sale

Richard Pelvin replies:

As noted in the introduction, the dates given are from commissioning to decommissioning or conversion to another role. Although it was not strictly converted to a survey ship until later, *Warrego* commenced surveying duties in 1944. She is listed as such in Part 3, in this issue. Similarly, *Swan* served as an escort until 1956, when it was converted for survey work. There are other inconsistencies, in part resulting from the ships’ being presented in a three-part series, but it seemed worthwhile to accept these in the interests of overall clarity.

As for both HMAS *Ibis* and the silhouette, Commander Swinden is correct.

As always, *Wartime* appreciates our readers’ eye for detail.

To the Editor,

May I tell you about a project of the women who served on anti-aircraft gun sites in Britain during the war, to erect a memorial to any lady (civilian or service) who helped in any way to ensure our nation’s survival and victory during World War Two.

Inquiries about or donations to the Memorial to Women of World War Two Fund should be sent to Major (Retd) David Robertson, c/- HQ York Garrison, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO10 4HD, UK.

Mildred B. Veal, York, England
