

The Murray brothers



Brothers Herbert and William Murray are two of many Aboriginal people who served in World War I. Today, some of their relatives are Moreland community members.

The Murray brothers were born on Gunditjmara Country in western Victoria. They were moved to the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Reserve in Gippsland before enlisting for service.

Herbert served as a tunneller during his military service between 1917 and 1919. He worked in a team that constructed complex tunnel systems underground before he was wounded in action in France (gassed). Herbert was discharged as medically unfit but the Australian government refused to pay him a war pension.

William Murray served in the 5th Battalion from 1916. He was killed in action while fighting at the Menin Gate in Belgium in 1917 and has no known grave. Both brothers are listed on the honour roll at Lake Tyers.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.
No. 638 Name **MURRAY, William Frederick** Unit **37th Tunnelling Company**
Joined on **16. 2. 16** **37th BATTN**

Questions to be sent to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? **MURRAY, William Frederick**

2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? **POORNIN VICTORIA**

3. Are you a natural born British subject or a Naturalized British subject? (If so, if the latter, please to be shown) **Natural born British subject**

4. What is your Age? **26 years 1 month**

5. What is your Trade or Calling? **no**

6. Are you of legal age, and of legal mind, and of sound mind, and of sound body, and of sound character, and of sound reputation? If so, when, to whom, and for what period? **no**

7. Are you married? **no**

8. What is your next of kin? (Address to be given) **Mr. Frederick Murray, Lindenow Street, Victoria**

9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? **no**

10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Honorary, or as Invalid and Wounded, or on account of Character of Policy, or of a Suspicion of Dishonesty, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Army? **no**

11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Royal Air Force? If so, when, and if not, why? **no**

12. Have you ever been opposed as well for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? **no**

13. Have you ever been opposed as well for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? **no**

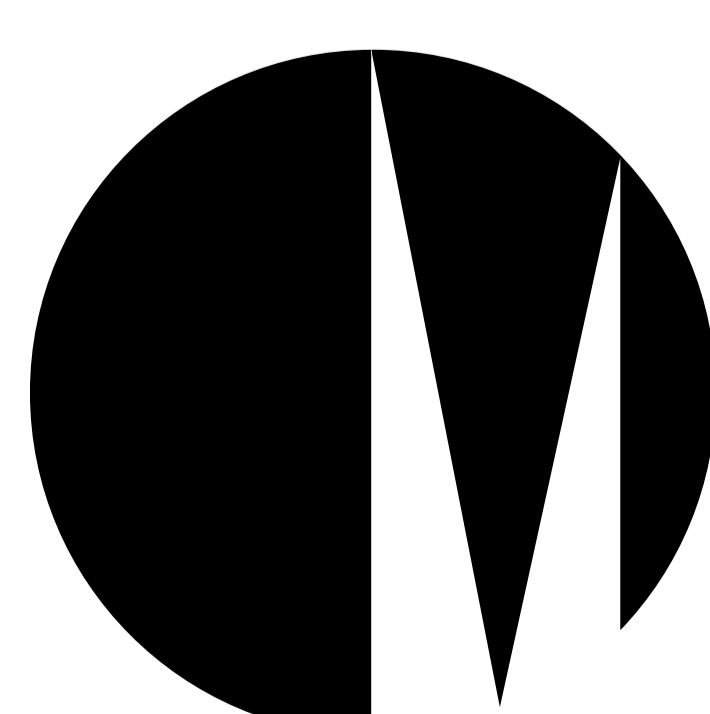
14. (For married men, marriage with spouse, and address when)



Moreland Remembers World War I



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Moreland City Council



For full exhibition and more information, visit www.moreland.vic.gov.au

Image 1.
Herbert Murray
Source: Forgotten Heroes: Aborigines at War from the Somme to Vietnam (1993)

Image 2.
Attestation paper, William Frederick Murray
Source: National Archives of Australia, Series B2455, Item barcode 4375054

Image 3.
Group portrait including Herbert Murray (front, centre)
3rd Tunnelling Company, AIF, France, c.1917.
Source: Australian War Memorial, P02360.001